Ligonier Bicentennial

1758-1958

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Two Hundred Years in Ligonier Valley

1758—1958

in the year of its

Bicentennial

September 21-27, 1958

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To all those men and women who have during the past two hundred years dedicated their efforts to the growth and development of Ligonier Valley

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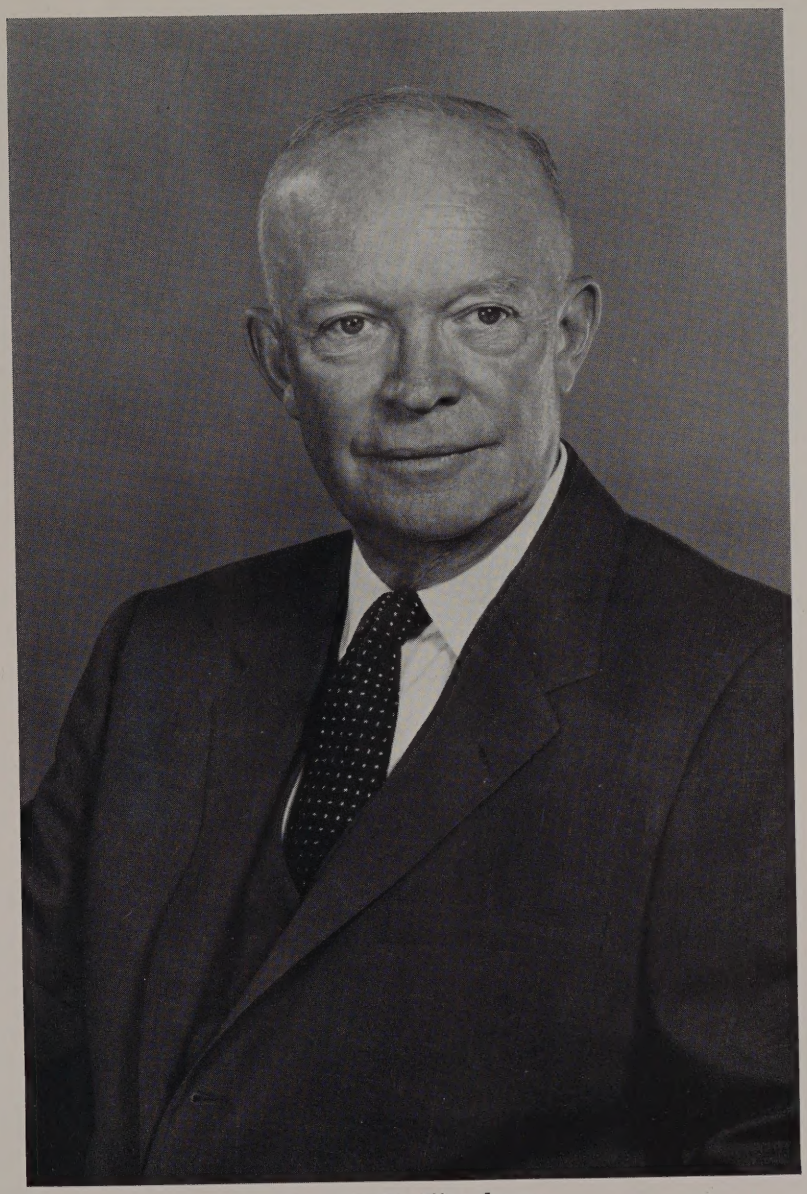

Dwight D. Eisenhower

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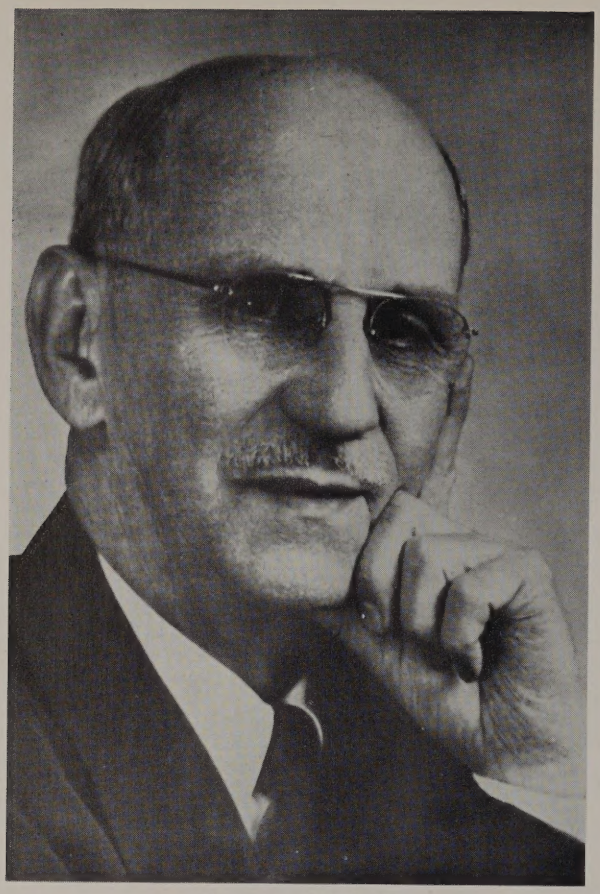


Clarence C. Wylie

. . . an educator—a classroom teacher and for twenty years the supervising principal of the Ligonier Borough School system;

. . . an influential leader in civic affairs—a charter member and first president of the Rotary Club, director in Ligonier Bicentennial Association;

. . . a gifted, well-informed speaker—an authority on Abraham Lincoln with an inexhaustible supply of sage anecdotes;

. . . a humble Christian—an elder at the Presbyterian Church and a Sunday School teacher;

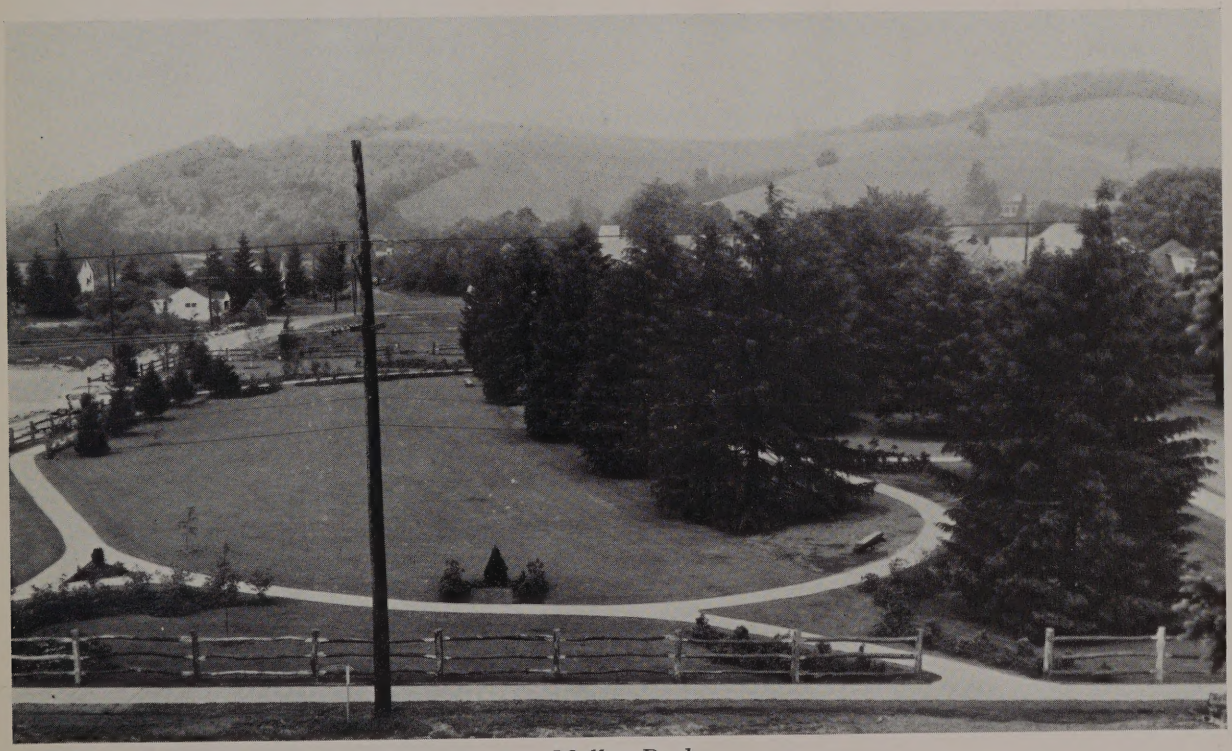
. . . a sympathetic, understanding counselor—gave sound advice, just criticism, and generous praise;

. . . whose work in compiling historical material and writing *Two Hundred Years in Ligonier Valley* was stopped at his death, Jan. 2, 1958.

Editor and Co-Author

Vernie Stanislaw West

Ligonier Public Square



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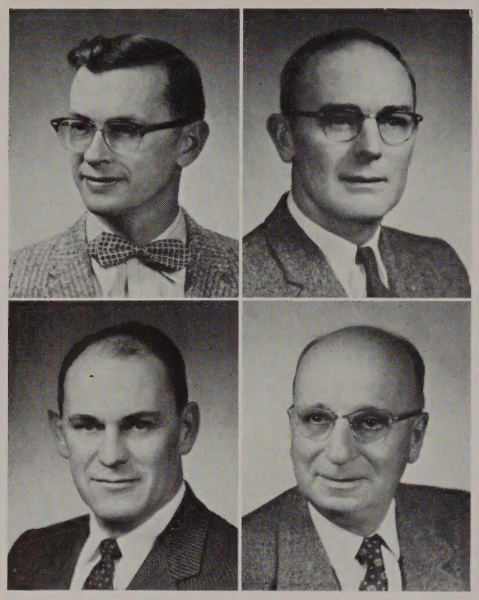

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Born March 17, 1888
Died July 8, 1957

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Fort Ligonier

From the beginning

to the early 1800's

PROLOGUE

Many centuries before the white man forged his way into Western Pennsylvania, a great historic people roamed the hills and valleys of Ligonier in search of the necessities their mode of living demanded. History has chosen to recognize these early people as the Mound Builders, but they were identified by themselves and by their neighbors of that age as the Alligewi. No discoveries of the archeologist have indicated that this nation of early Americans had ever established any settlement in Ligonier Valley, but there are many evidences of their presence as transients in near-by localities and it is reasonable to assume that the ancient Alligewi enjoyed the luxuries of scenic beauty so richly provided by the meandering Loyalhanna and the towering Laurel Mountain. We perpetuate the name of these early dwellers each time we mention the Allegheny River, which was the direct route of their travel from north to south. The name Allegheny is derived from Alligewi-hanna, or river of the Alligewi, and thus is a lasting memorial to people about whose customs and achievements the history of mankind records so little.

It is not possible to determine definitely the date when the Alligewi were driven from their established homeland, but the period might be reasonably designated as some time between 1100 and 1300 A.D. The conquerors, who came from the west, were a coalition of the Lenni Lenape and the Iroquois, and as a result of ruthless carnage by the invaders, the Alligewi disappeared forever into their own Valhalla which so long ago became the final resting place of the ancient states of Carthage, Greece, and Rome.

After the destruction of the Alligewi civilization had been completed, the newly acquired territory was divided between the conquerors, and that territory in which Ligonier Valley is located was portioned to the Lenni Lenape. It was with the descendants of these people that the white settlers had to deal as they established their homes in Western Pennsylvania, although during the passage of time their name was changed from Lenni Lenape to Delawares. The two conquerors ruled jointly until about 1670 when the Delawares were subdued by the Iroquois.

The Iroquoian dominance did nothing toward the eradication of cruelty, and the atrocities to which the pioneers were subjected were savagery at its worst. Throughout the story of early Ligonier and its tragic contacts with the Red Man—the Munsee (Wolf Clan), Unami (Turtle Clan), and Unalachtigo (Turkey Clan) —all Delawares, were bloody records of their resentment to frauds which white men had perpetrated upon their nation, as retaliation became a national and not an individual issue. The Senecas, the Catawbas, the Shawnees, and the Mingoes, together with minor tribes and clans, added to the hazards which faced each man and woman of the frontier, and words could not possibly portray the constant anxiety and peril surrounding each simple venture by night or by day.

The Earliest Indian Settlement

The first concentration of people known to have been established as a village in Ligonier Valley was that made by the Turtle and Turkey Clans as they founded Loyalhanning, a hamlet and trading post located on the west side of Mill Creek not far from its juncture with the Loyalhanna, presumably at or near the present site of the American Legion Home. This village was probably founded about 1727 for it was quite a new settlement when visited by traders in 1732.

Indian Place Names

The names of Loyalhanna and Allegheny, as is true of many places in or near Ligonier Valley, had their origin with the Delawares, clans of which were the first to be concerned with permanent residence here. Their chief highway was the river, and this in large part determined the place names in this area. Lowell-Hanna or Middle River was the stream lying midway between the Juniata and the Ohio. The ending "ing" was suffixed to designate a definite point or place, thus Lowell-Hanna-ing was A Place on the Middle River. Alligewi-Hanna or River of the Alligewi was the original name for the Allegheny. Kit-Hanna-ing is easily recognizable as Kittanning with the "kit" prefixed to signify that the river was big. Conemaugh is from Conummoch, an otter; Kiskiminetas means

"to make daylight" and Youghiogheny is "a circuitous stream."

The Coming of the White Man

The first recorded account of any white men within the Western Pennsylvania area was given by James Le Tort and Jonah Davenport who with Lazarus Lowery explored much of the area along the rivers of Westmoreland and surrounding counties. In 1731 these early traders provided the Pennsylvania Provincial Council with the first known description of Indian settlements in the western part of our state, and while Loyalhanning was not mentioned by name, it is unlikely that a village located along a leading Indian trail would have been bypassed. In his report to the Pennsylvania Council, Le Tort told of the trading activities of a Frenchman known as Cavalier and of his influence over the Shawnees. Cavalier, whose first visit was during the year 1728, proved to be a trouble maker in the eyes of the first English-speaking settlers since he supplied the Indians with guns, powder, and hatchets. Cavalier contributed further to the tragic stages of history for he undoubtedly sowed seeds of prejudice in the minds of the Indians to the extent that a price was set upon the head of every white settler who did not speak the French tongue. Le Tort also reported that the French relations with the Indians were deliberate "with a design to draw them off from the English interest." So, as early as 1730 we see from these reports and from early records the beginning of the contest between England and France for possession of the region west of the Alleghenies.

Disputes on Territorial Rights and Boundaries

Dating from the period of discovery and exploration when both the French and English made broad territorial claims for their governments, there were bound to be infringements on both sides. One can see that the French claim to all the territory drained by the Ohio, Mississippi, and Allegheny Rivers, based on the discoveries of LaSalle, would conflict with the claim of England "to all the land bordering on the Atlantic Ocean for a distance of 400 miles, extending from sea to sea." This territory, consisting of dense forests inhabited only by Indians and wild animals, was as inviting to the French seeking riches in the fur trade with the Indians as it was to the English pioneer who wished to wrest this wilderness from the Red Man to carve for himself a home among the lovely hills and valleys.

There were also disagreements between Pennsylvania and Virginia as to which owned the land west of the Alleghenies; both seemed to have legitimate claims. Virginia had purchased from the Iroquois, or Six Nations, a tract of land whose western boundary was designated indefinitely by the Indians "as the setting sun." The English took this to mean all the land in the Ohio Valley with its tributaries, while later the Indians insisted that they meant the crest of the Alleghenies. A group of Virginians, among whom were George Washington's half brothers, Lawrence and Augustine, Thomas Lee, and Governor Dinwiddie, felt that it was expedient to have an organization which would protect their interests against the traders from Pennsylvania and Maryland who were in ever-increasing numbers wending their way into the valley of the Ohio and its tributaries.

Thus the Ohio Company was formed in 1748 and chartered by King George II. To the land which Virginia had purchased from the Indians was added a grant from the king of 200,000 acres. Its boundaries and stipulations were:

> on the south side of the Ohio and Allegheny between the Kiskiminetas River and Buffalo Creek and on the north side of the Ohio between Yellow Creek and Cross Creek, with the stipulation that it would settle 100 families thereon in seven years and build a fort.

If these terms were fulfilled the Company would be granted an additional 300,000 acres joining the first tract. Within this additional grant Ligonier Valley was located.

The same year, 1748, Conrad Weiser, an agent of the Colony of Pennsylvania, negotiated a treaty with the Indians at Logstown, the "Indian Capitol" on the north bank of the Ohio about 18 miles below Pittsburgh. This treaty laid the region west of the Alleghenies open to Anglo-Saxon influence and development and laid the foundations for the "Winning of the West."

Conrad Weiser well deserves the exalted and permanent place he holds in the history of Pennsylvania. His wisdom and diplomacy place him as a nation-builder of importance. Weiser explained to the Ohio Company that their claim to the land west of the mountains was invalid but the Virginians continued to explore the region.

The Surveyor, Christopher Gist

The French had already explored and claimed the territory along the Allgeheny River, when in 1750, Christopher Gist, a surveyor, was sent by the Ohio Company to explore the region west of the Alleghenies. His diary indicates without doubt that he visited the Indian town of Kiskiminetas, later called Loyalhanna and built where Ligonier now stands. He was instructed to learn and report the passes through the mountains, to observe the nature of the soil, its composition and possible products, the rivers, and the Indian tribes which inhabited the region which he traversed. This he was to do in order "that the Company may better judge where it will be convenient for them to take their land."

Gist's diary tells of his travels from Old Town, Maryland, along the "Warrior's Path" to the Allegheny Path which led through Bedford and Ligonier to Shannopin's Town on the Allegheny near Pittsburgh. Here his party crossed the river and proceeded to Logstown on the Ohio. He explored the Muskingum Valley and returned to Virginia through Kentucky. On the journey he met King Beaver, a chief of the Delawares, who propounded to him the question which Gist confesses he "was at a loss to answer." King Beaver asked, "The French claim all the land on one side of the River Ohio and the English all on the other side. Where then does the Indian's land lie?"

Against the protests of Weiser and the Indians, who both insisted that the Ohio Company had no title to land west of the mountains, Gist proceeded to make settlements in what is now Fayette and Greene counties and in 1754 began to erect the fort that was conditioned in the land grant. Thus continued the disputes between the two colonies over a period of years until the French and Indian War caused them to join forces against their common enemy, the French, and by their concerted efforts turned the tide in favor of the English.

French Incursion

A year before Gist began his investigations the French had been busy among the Indians. In order to strengthen their claims they had determined to build a line of military posts from the St. Lawrence to the mouth of the Mississippi. In 1749 Celeron floated down the Allegheny and the Ohio from Canada, and arrogated the region drained by the "Beautiful River" and its tributaries. He went on to bury leaden plates at the mouth of each tributary, basing the French claim on the explorations of LaSalle, Father Marquette, and Joliet. Then in the summer of 1753 the French came into the upper Allegheny. The English fur traders were quick to carry this news back to Virginia where Governor Dinwiddie was being unusually protective of the rights of the Ohio Company. A shrewd, obstinate Scotsman with a great deal of diplomacy, he dispatched a genteel but positive note to the French commandant asking him to withdraw the French from the Ohio Valley.

To deliver this note he chose young George Washington. Perhaps the fact that two of Washington's half brothers were members of the Company influenced the governor in his choice. Washington, beyond doubt, was eminently well-fitted for the position, since he was a skilled surveyor and woodsman with great physical strength and endurance, plus good judgment. While this journey proved to be one of importance, its place in history has probably been magnified by his biographers in view of his later more eminent career. He was guided on this mission by the great pathfinder, Christopher Gist, who was the first man to leave a written record of Ligonier Valley history.

The Breach Widens

On Washington's return to Virginia, he recommended that a fort be built at the spot where Pittsburgh now stands. In February 1754 the Company sent a party of perhaps 70 men to start the construction of such a fort, which was to be occupied by an army of 300 men under the command of Colonels Fry and Washington. The

work had barely begun when the French under Captain Contrecoeur came down from Canada with a force of 1000 men and drove the Virginians away; they themselves proceeded to build a larger fort which they called Fort Duquesne in honor of the Governor-General of Canada.

In 1754 Virginia made another effort, this time by force, to regain control of the Forks of the Ohio. Washington commanded a campaign against Fort Duquesne, but was defeated at Fort Necessity which he had hurriedly put up to shelter his army and which he was forced to evacuate on July 4, 1754. This was Washington's first and last surrender. The spot is now marked by a reconstructed stockade as a memorial built by the State of Pennsylvania.

These incidents may well be called the beginning of the French and Indian War, which lasted nine years—nine years during which the destinies of the American colonies were to be decided—to the end that we became an English and not a French nation.

French and Indian Alliance

Ironically, the alliance of the French and Indians was not effected by love, but by mutual convenience. The Indians, a nomadic people, could understand the Frenchman's need for hunting and trapping, and the Frenchman played the Indian's love for gay baubles against the more utilitarian gifts of the English. Neither could the Indians forgive the English who, of necessity, ruined their hunting grounds by cutting away the forests to create their farms. The English did not intentionally bring down the wrath of the Indians upon themselves but were unable to appease them. So it was that the French Army at Fort Duquesne became formidable with the addition of the Indian allies.

This does not mean that all the Indians were hostile toward the English and friendly to the French. Long before the white man came the tribes warred against each other, sometimes obliterating, sometimes subduing, and sometimes conquering and absorbing whole tribes. Time and time again these Indian feuds determined a certain tribe's allegiance with either French or English. One of the factors in the rivalry between Virginia and Pennsylvania was the fact that different tribes of Indians made treaties with the French and English, giving to each colony permission to trade, settle, and build forts on the same territory. On the other hand, both Virginia and Pennsylvania made repeated treaties which they repeatedly broke with still other tribes, treaties not to settle west of the Alleghenies.

Unceasing bribery and gifts were necessary to retain the Red Men's allegiance and if the supply of gifts was exhausted they would desert, sometimes at a most inopportune time. The number of Indians on either side thus varied from time to time. At times there would be only a few scouts and then again all the warriors of a tribe would ally themselves with either side as the Indian inclination or the season dictated. In the fall most of them would have gone to their homes to prepare for winter. This variation in numbers usually affected the French more than the English because the French had grown more dependent upon their help. In at least one instance this situation was of major importance in an English victory, the capture of Fort Duquesne. It had a like effect in the battle of Ligonier.

The Cherokees and Catawbas were friendly to the English, and the Delawares and Shawnees were likewise powerful allies until they deserted the English after Braddock's defeat. The Iroquois were generally ready to be of aid to the English-speaking people.

Braddock's Defeat

Tension between the French and English was heightened with each new problem so that when news of the construction of Fort Duquesne by the French reached England it produced results. In a relatively short time General Edward Braddock was sent across the ocean to march upon this fort and to capture it. This had as far-reaching consequences as anything in American history. When Braddock's resplendent royal army, trained for the battlefields of Europe, met the smaller force of French and Indians accustomed to backwoods warfare, the result was one of the most overwhelming defeats ever sustained by any army in America. This defeat had a two-fold effect. First, it spurred the hostile Indians to inflict atrocities upon the settlers for years to come, and second, it instigated the English settlers to look with some doubt and mis-

giving upon their home government. The realization that the world-honored and revered English soldiers were not really invincible was a blow to their hero worship but it sowed the seed which gave the colonists courage to rebel against England years later in their war of independence.

Campaign Led by General Forbes

Fortunately for the colonists, the new Prime Minister of England in 1758 was William Pitt, a name highly esteemed by Americans. Pitt was much interested in the affairs of the colonists and sent to the aid of Pennsylvania a new expedition commanded by General John Forbes, a most able general and a gentleman besides. Probably because his campaign did not end in a horror of bloodshed it is lightly passed over by some historians. Instead, great credit should be given to General Forbes for his careful planning and judicious leadership. Next in command was Colonel Henry Bouquet, also a most able officer. Upon reaching Philadelphia General Forbes became very ill and actually never fully recovered again, but this seemed to have little effect on his wisdom, courage, and well-laid plans. With such a competent, energetic soldier as Colonel Bouquet to carry out his plans, General Forbes was able to continue the campaign to a successful close from his sick bed.

Forbes Road Controversy

Most urgent, of course, was a good route over which to march the army and transport supplies from the base at Fort Louden to Fort Duquesne. Washington and the Virginia leaders wanted to follow Braddock's road since it gave them easy access for trade with the Ohio Valley. Forbes and the Pennsylvanians wanted a new route cut directly over the mountains from Bedford across Laurel Mountain to Loyalhanna. This controversy between two strong-minded leaders has been well recorded in history in accounts of the conferences and letters exchanged between Washington, Bouquet, Forbes, Governor Fauquier of Virginia, Sir John St. Clair, Speaker of the House of Burgesses, and Major Peter Halket. Many heated words and accusations were exchanged with the implication that each side was motivated by self-interest. At one point, after a conference with Bouquet, Washington wrote to Halket, "If Colonel Bouquet succeeds in gaining this point with the general (Forbes) all is lost! our enterprise is ruined! and we shall be stopped at Laurel Hill this Winter; but not to gather laurels, except the kind that cover the mountains."

With real conviction each side upheld its views. Washington and the Virginians regarded the conduct of the Pennsylvanians as completely selfish. In their opinion, Pennsylvania simply wanted a new road to the western country at the expense of the Crown and at the risk of defeating the object of the campaign. The matter of the road entered into the whole long strife between the two colonies on the question of boundaries along the Ohio as well. Virginia had made the Ohio Company's first settlement in the valley of the Ohio; she had constructed the first road to that area, the Nemacolin Indian Trail which the Ohio Company cleared and widened. Therefore, Virginia feared that her claim to the Ohio Valley, based on the purchase she had made from the Iroquois at the Lancaster Treaty in 1744, would be endangered if a new road leading from settled sections of Pennsylvania were opened. Such a road would be open invitation to the traders. The Pennsylvania officers, in urging their choice of road, pointed out that it would afford direct communication to the fertile farms of Eastern Pennsylvania from which food and other supplies for the army could be obtained. They also called attention to the fact that when Braddock was marching against Fort Duquesne, a road was begun from McDowell's Mill in Franklin County to join the Braddock Road at Turkey Foot (Confluence) by which sorely needed supplies could be brought from Eastern Pennsylvania. Colonel James Burd had completed the road as far as the summit of the Alleghenies when Braddock's defeat put an end to its construction. Using the route of this road would facilitate the building of another.

General Forbes arrived at Bedford about the middle of September at the head of the British regulars and there he was joined by the southern troops under Washington. It was at this point that the final selection of the route was made. The choice was no doubt influenced by the fact that Colonel Bouquet, who had been stationed at Bedford, had strengthened the fort

and already started to cut the road toward what is now Ligonier. The decision of Forbes almost alienated the Virginia groups when their help was vitally needed, but we can be sure that the hard-headed, clear-thinking Forbes at no time was actuated by self-interest and firmly believed it to be the nearest and best route for his army.

Completion of Forbes Road

In less than one month Bouquet, with his 1400 ax-men guarded by soldiers, had cut the road and they were encamped at the western base of Laurel Hill beside the Loyalhanna, at the point which had been fixed for Forbes' army to assemble before making the final dash against Fort Duquesne.

The road was planned with a superb combination of military and engineering skill. Keeping to the ridges and high ground provided not only a drier road but one with less opportunity for ambush. It meant cutting away rocks on the sides of the mountains by blasting and hewing. At all times Forbes protected his entire line of march to his base of supplies in the rear and erected breastworks in advance so that the main body of the army could be protected. Remains of some of these breastworks are yet standing.

The course of Forbes' road has been of great interest to students in history. In the main it followed the route cut by Colonel James Burd for Braddock in 1755 from Fort Louden to Bedford—from Fort Louden to Fort Littleton, to Sideling Hill, to Bedford, to Wolfsburg, to Schellsburg, then to Stoyestown to Jenners, over Laurel Hill to Ligonier. This also is the general path of the present Lincoln Highway and later, when Washington completed the road from Ligonier to Fort Duquesne, it went along the old Lincoln Highway to Youngstown, Hannastown to Murrysville, entering Pittsburgh near the present Point Breeze Church and following Penn Avenue down Frankstown Avenue to Fort Duquesne.

Beginning of Fort Ligonier

Winter was approaching. Bouquet had arrived at the appointed meeting place on September 7, 1758, and while waiting at Loyalhanna for Forbes to arrive with his army, he built a stockade and storehouses to use as a place of deposit. This was the beginnning of Fort Ligonier, and though we do not know exactly when the name of Ligonier was first given it was not until after Forbes had arrived later that same year. Washington with his Virginia Provincials had arrived in October and with Burd helped Bouquet to put up the stockade.

Grant's Defeat

Then occurred another link in the chain of events which is important only because it is the link that leads up to the battle of Ligonier. Bouquet, probably growing impatient and feeling the need for accurate information as to the condition of Fort Duquesne, sanctioned what was to be one of the worst fiascos in history. Colonel James Grant begged to be allowed to reconnoiter and Bouquet consented. Grant was expressly cautioned not to bring on a battle but in his rashness and thirst for fame he overstepped his orders and suffered a disastrous defeat and his own capture. It is a marvel that he succeeded in traveling the Indian infested forest without detection. Then, by some inexplicable motivation, instead of making a surprise attack on the unsuspecting foe, he had his troops beat the drums and play the bagpipes just at daylight. The French and Indians rushed out and divided into three groups, surrounded the main body of Grant's army with two groups while the third remained before the fort. The battle was immediately disorganized and bloody; many English were killed and many more captured and tortured. The attack ended in a rout and the enemy audaciously followed them in their retreat toward Loyalhanna.

Too Free With Spirituous Liquors

In artfully approaching the enemy Grant employed tactics of a wise, experienced officer, but then with complete inconsistency he loudly proclaimed his presence instead of surprising the French and Indians. One of the Delaware chiefs, in a conversation with Colonel James Smith, accounted for the inconsistency by supposing that Grant had been too free with spirituous liquors and became intoxicated about daylight. Be that as it may, he was exchanged soon after his capture and attempted to vindicate himself of his monstrous blunder.

The battle had been fought September 14, 1758, and a bronze marker on the Grant Building in Pittsburgh marks the site. When the stragglers reached Fort Ligonier with accounts of the battle, Bouquet, feeling sure that the French would pursue their advantage, strengthened his position in preparation for the attack which came October 12, 1758.

Battle of Ligonier

The French and Indian victory over Major Grant had the customary effect on the participating warriors who always return home after a winning battle to display their trophies. Also it was the season to prepare for winter. This was very discouraging to the French and accounted for their not following up the distinct advantage gained by Grant's defeat. De Lignery, the commander at Fort Duquesne, felt, however, that he must attack as soon as possible, even though he was not adequately prepared, since he knew that General Forbes had not yet arrived at Ligonier and that the garrison had been greatly depleted by Grant's fiasco. With diVitri in command, 1200 French soldiers and a few hundred Indians approached the fort from the southwest and began firing about eleven o'clock in the forenoon on that 12th day of October.

French Admit English Superiority

Within the walls of Fort Ligonier were 2200 Englishmen. Bouquet himself was absent from the fort; he was stuck in the mud at Stoyestown. Colonel James Burd, a capable officer, was in command at Ligonier. He returned the fire and the fighting continued for four hours, making little impression on the fort. The French attacked again after nightfall but Burd's men threw mortar shells into their place of concealment and they soon retreated. The English followed to ward off another attack but the French evidently decided that discretion was the better part of valor and returned to Fort Duquesne. In the French report of the battle they admitted that the English had learned much about wilderness fighting. The English loss was not great and while the exact number of French losses is not known, it is presumed to be much larger.

This brief account of the battle of Ligonier perhaps does not do justice to its import in subsequent history. Had the tide of battle turned otherwise, the British-coveted goal of Fort Duquesne would have become the French "Gateway to the West," and Ligonier would not now be honored as the "Key to the Gateway of the West."

Forbes' Arrival at Ligonier

The rest of the army and General Forbes, who had consumed 50 days in marching 50 miles from Bedford to Ligonier, arrived at the fort about November 1. Because of the almost impassable condition of the roads due to the autumn rains, the troops and horses arrived overworked and underfed. After surveying the situation and considering the condition of the General's health which had been greatly aggravated by the journey, they contemplated setting up winter quarters and awaiting the arrival of spring to continue the expedition, which was exactly what the French had hoped.

The determination and fortitude which made Forbes a great commander also kept him from resigning his command, as a weaker man might have done. The nature of his illness is not known for certain except that it required a shelter and heat. In a letter written at Bedford from Forbes to Bouquet was this indication that the dwelling structures of the fort had not yet been erected. "Pray make a hovell or hutt for me at Loyal Hannon or any other posts, with a fire place if possible."

In trying to place the date of naming the post Fort Ligonier we have letters from Forbes dated October 22 and November 9, 1758, and an entry in Post's journal dated December 4, 1758, in which he said, "I drew provision for our journey to Fort Ligonier." We do know it was named for Sir John Ligonier, who became Commander-in-Chief of the land forces in Great Britain in October 1757. General Forbes was his devoted admirer and had served under him before coming to America. A beautiful engraving of Sir John Ligonier hangs in the reading room of the Ligonier Valley Library.

Construction of Fort Ligonier

The stockades and fortifications which Bouquet and Washington had built continued to be

Sir John Ligonier

enlarged after General Forbes arrived. The work was begun in late summer of 1758 and the fort itself was not completed till the spring of 1759. Fort Ligonier did not differ in construction from other frontier forts and of course was built of materials readily available: timber, earth, and rocks. Within the stockade was a square fort containing storehouses, officers' barracks, powder magazine, and smaller buildings. Outside the fort were the soldiers' cabins and room for shelter of troops and pioneers during time of danger or siege. The site was ideal from a military standpoint, elevated with a steep ravine on one side and with easy access to a good supply of water. A replica of the fort may be seen in the reconstructed fort.

The first of November found the entire army encamped at Fort Ligonier and preparing to go into winter quarters when General Forbes, receiving reports from Christian Frederick Post, changed his mind and decided that the attack be made at once.

Christian Frederick Post

Christian Frederick Post was a Moravian missionary whose work with the Indians did so much to further the English cause. He labored mostly with the Delawares among whom he lived in Eastern Pennsylvania and who loved him as one of their own flesh and blood. Post was sent by Governor Denny of Pennsylvania and General Forbes to mediate with the Indian tribes west of the Alleghenies, and it was through the influence and guidance of the Delawares that Post was able to accomplish his mission. A promise implied or given to the Indians by the British to remove all settlers to the east of the mountains was probably the deciding factor in bringing about an alliance that was most pleasing to the English and most disastrous to the French.

On his visits to the villages of the Indians Post received information which was of extreme value to General Forbes. He reported that the number of men at Fort Duquesne was less than 1200, that the hunting fever had come over the Indians, that the fort itself was weak and might not withstand an attack, that provisions and supplies were low, and that the hostile attitude of the Indians was lessening as the peace negotiations of Post spread and succeeded. All these observations were corroborated by prisoners who had been taken from the French after the battle of Ligonier.

Forbes' Advance

General Forbes laid his plans for the hard march to Fort Duquesne by dividing his forces into three brigades. George Washington was to receive his first command here at Ligonier and was to have the privilege of leading the advance column because of his knowledge of woodsmanship. It was his duty to open the road for the troops to follow. He left Ligonier November 12, 1758, with 1500 men and was followed the next day by the second brigade of 1000 Pennsylvanians under Colonel John Armstrong. Forbes followed four days later with the main army of over 4000 and left a garrison to guard the forts at Ligonier and Bedford.

Washington's and Armstrong's troops cooperated on the march; they traveled without tents and baggage and with only a light train of artillery. Friendly Indian scouts were constantly on the alert to prevent a surprise attack. The route they followed in opening up the road is well known today, and the twelve days required to cut the road from Ligonier to Fort Duquesne

is fully recorded in a journal now in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

General Forbes, with his customary wisdom, moved on Fort Duquesne with great caution. Loyal Indians and daring American pioneers acted as scouts. Washington's men built quarters with chimneys for the afflicted general at designated points. Forbes caught up to him at Turtle Creek and found that the troops were discouraged by scanty food and bad weather and wished to return to Ligonier. Again the strong will of Forbes overcame all objections and they proceeded toward the fort. During the night the scouts discovered that Fort Duquesne was burning and that the fort had been abandoned. A detachment of cavalry was sent ahead by Forbes to endeavor to save the fort and supplies but it was too late. The French, seeing that it would be futile to defend the fort against such great odds, had set fire to everything that would burn and had withdrawn with what they could carry.

Fort Duquesne in Hands of British

The entire army, fearing an ambush, moved forward in the morning under an advance guard. It took all day to march through the entangled forest and when they arrived at nightfall they found only smoldering ruins of Fort Duquesne. After four long years the British had reached a desired and needed goal and had done it without a battle. General Forbes deserved the credit he received for the success of the campaign but his able officers, Washington and Armstrong, were due a share of the commendation. Colonel Armstrong raised the British flag over the charred and smoking ruins, and at the suggestion of General Forbes, the site was renamed Fort Pitt in honor of the Prime Minister of England who had made possible the entire venture. Today the city of Pittsburgh stands on the spot, the enduring monument to William Pitt.

General Forbes was tired and weak and returned to Philadelphia by litter, borne sometimes by two horses, but at times he was so ill and enfeebled that he had to be carried gently by his men. He reached Fort Ligonier and remained there, unable to continue, until December 27. On January 18 he arrived in Philadelphia and lived only until March 11, 1759.

Colonel Bouquet remained at Pittsburgh until December 5 and then returned to Ligonier. Colonel Hugh Mercer was left in command of Fort Pitt and quickly put up temporary quarters for the force of 280 men who were sent to occupy the fort. This marked the beginning of the English occupation of the Beautiful River.

Garrison at Fort Ligonier

All the Colonial and British leaders considered Ligonier a very important post. From the latter part of 1758 to the latter part of 1759 Fort Ligonier was in a state of activity. As General Forbes had advanced from Carlisle to Fort Ligonier on his way to Fort Duquesne, he had erected garrisons at suitable sites along the way. Bouquet, stationed at Ligonier, found it his duty to keep that line of communication open from Carlisle to Fort Pitt. Bouquet was second in command then to General Stanwix, who had succeeded Forbes. Bouquet was needed so many places that the command at Fort Ligonier passed rapidly from one officer to another. The garrisons also changed repeatedly from Pennsylvania Provincials to Virginia Provincials and back again, but most of the time the fort was manned by Royal Americans, and subsequent to the beginning of Pontiac's War in 1763 there were always Royal Americans at the fort. Neither strictly British nor strictly Colonial the Royal Americans were a combination of pioneer soldiers and officers commissioned by the king with Colonel Bouquet as their first commander. The men were for the most part Pennsylvania-Germans and other non-English-speaking people.

French Plan New Attack

Following the abandonment of Fort Duquesne the French had not retreated far. Fort Machault, where Franklin is now located, became their headquarters and there they amassed a large army, half of which were Indians. Elaborate plans were drawn up for recovering Fort Duquesne and Fort Ligonier by coming down the streams which led to each fort, and so hundreds of boats for transporting the troops and supplies were hastily put together. During this period of preparation the French sent out marauding parties that harassed the settlements, the outposts, and Forbes Road, and advanced as

far as Ligonier on several occasions. Once they were bold enough to attack. Colonel Adam Stephen was in command when an undetermined number of the enemy attacked from every quarter. They were driven back by English shells but continued firing until nightfall. A scouting party which returned at dusk was able to get into the fort without a loss. The enemy continued firing during the daytime for several days and then withdrew.

Before the main advance started the French were diverted by an unforeseen danger. The British under Sir William Johnson moved against Fort Niagara and De Lignery with his French and Indians abandoned the project against Forts Pitt and Ligonier, destroyed Fort Machault, and went to the aid of Niagara. In spite of this, Johnson captured the fort and from that time until the opening of Pontiac's War in the spring of 1763 the forts of Ligonier, Pittsburgh, Bedford, and others along the line of communication were not in imminent danger though there were raids by small parties of Indians.

Efforts Toward Peace

Following the capture of Fort Duquesne in 1758, Christian Frederick Post continued his efforts to effect a lasting peace with the Indians. Shingas and King Beaver, the two leading Delaware chiefs, had agreed to return their white captives but were reluctant to meet for a conference because they feared retaliation for the atrocities they had committed on the frontier settlements during the French and Indian War. Pennsylvania renewed its attempt to induce the Indian leaders to confer with them. Through Post, the Indians and the Pennsylvanians finally concurred on a council to be held in Lancaster. The Indian chiefs with their parties and the remaining captives arrived at Fort Pitt on July 3, 1759, and passed through Ligonier about July 14 by way of the Forbes Road to reach Lancaster August 8.

Many of the captives had been so well treated by the Indians and had been with them so long they had grown quite fond of the Indian way of life. They had no desire to return to civilization and considered it as returning from freedom to captivity. Several could not be persuaded to leave and others turned back along the way. The primitive life of the frontier was no more comfortable than that of the Indian and it is understandable that the captives should be reluctant to leave the known for the unknown.

During the years 1760-1762 nothing happened to disturb the ordinary routine at Fort Ligonier, but in the spring of 1763 the clouds of the storm of Pontiac's War gathered over the pacific valley, the fort, and its garrison of Royal Americans.

Pontiac's War

The reign of peace between Pennsylvania and the Indians, which began with the capture of Fort Duquesne in 1758 and the Lancaster treaty in 1762, had remained unbroken. Now this peace was to be shattered with the spilling of settlers' blood in the Pontiac and Guyasuta War. The Delawares, Miamis, Ottowas, Mingoes, Mohicans, and Wyandots joined in an all-out Indian War, with Fort Ligonier caught in the midst of it.

The cause of Pontiac's War is generally attributed by historians to the Indians' resentment of the treatment accorded them by the British after the French were driven from west of the Alleghenies following the French and Indian War. Then English were overbearing and patronizing, which offended the proud, spirited Western tribes who had become accustomed to the easy-going French. Hale Sipe, author of *Fort Ligonier and Its Times* acknowledges these factors but he gives this as the principal cause:

> "Going back to the invasion of the Ohio and Allegheny by the French we find that the deputy of the Six Nations, Tanacharison, warned the French to leave the Indian's territory. As was the custom of the Iroquois before declaring war, this warning was given three times and as many times disregarded."

Then the Six Nations made an alliance with the English to drive the French from their lands along the Ohio and Allegheny with the understanding that upon the expulsion of the French, the English would withdraw from this region. The chiefs of the Six Nations, relying on their promises, served the English interest.

During the period from 1753 when the French invaded the territory till peace was declared between England and France in 1763, there were repeated promises by the English which were as repeatedly broken, with the Indians making constant protestations. Always with the plea that the French were not driven out yet, the English continued taking formal possession without purchase or consent and building stronger forts that the French had surrendered. Settlers came and laid out plantations with the permission of the military. All this was done in the face of promises by Forbes, Bouquet, Mercer, and other British officials as recorded in the Colonial Records and Pennsylvania Archives. When Forbes was too ill to talk to the Indians personally, he sent this message,

> "The General (Forbes) knows that the French have told the Indians that the English intend to cheat them out of their land on the Ohio, but this, he assures you, is false. The English have no intention to make settlements in your Hunting Country beyond the Allegheny Hills, unless they shall be desired for your convenience to erect some storehouses in order to establish and carry on trade, which they are ready to do on fair and just terms."

Just two months earlier he had written to Governor Denny expressing his determination "to fix this noble, fine country, to all perpetuity, under the dominion of Great Britain."

These are but examples of British perfidy and dishonor. The British forgot their promises and treaties as quickly as they made them. The Indian never forgot a promise, a treaty, a kindness or an injury. The strongest love of his heart was the love for the lands he considered his own and the fiercest passion of his heart was love of revenge. Now that the Indian's beloved home and hunting grounds were invaded in violation of solemn promises and formal treaties, it is no wonder that the storm which had been brewing for ten years broke with fury in the summer of 1763; it is no wonder that the warriors of Pontiac, Guyasuta, and Custaloga rose in savage wrath in an effort to drive the English into the sea and that the Pennsylvania Valleys ran red with the blood of the pioneers.

Pontiac Wars Against English Forts

Pontiac's plan against the British consisted of stirring up and winning all the tribes except the Six Nations to his side for a united attack on all the English forts from Canada to the Mississippi in May 1763. So successful was his plan that all the forts except Detroit, Fort Pitt, and Fort Ligonier fell into the hands of the Indians.

When the Indians arrived at Fort Pitt late in May, Captain Ecuyer had evacuated all the villagers of Pittsburgh into the fort and leveled all buildings outside the ramparts. With 540 people crowded into the fort it was uncomfortable, unsanitary, and dangerously unhealthy. At first the attacks of Pontiac and Guyasuta were just enough to be annoying and to keep the garrison in a state of restless alarm. There were several exchanges of fire followed by an offer by the Indians for a parley in which they offered to spare the garrison if it withdrew east of the mountains. Captain Ecuyer tricked the Indians into withdrawing temporarily by inventing the story that an army of 6,000 soldiers was marching to relieve Fort Pitt. When the army did not arrive after several weeks the Indians again approached to request a parley. Shingas was the speaker and he addressed Captain Ecuyer,

> "We wish to hold fast the chain of friendship—that ancient chain which our forefathers held with your brethren the English. You have let your end of the chain fall to the ground, but ours is still fast within our hands. Why do you complain that our young men have fired at your soliders and killed your cattle and horses? You yourselves are the cause of this. You marched your armies into our country and built forts here, though we told you again and again that we wished you to remove. My brothers, this land is ours and not yours."

Captain Ecuyer, while admitting the truth of the Indians' complaint, refused flatly to depart so that the chiefs went away displeased and disappointed because they had not been able to negotiate a bloodless peace. The very next night they surrounded the fort and entrenched themselves along the banks of the river. For several days they continued the shooting and set fire to the buildings with fire-arrows. The occupants were terror-stricken; one person was

killed and seven wounded. No one knows what the eventual outcome would have been had not the Indians withdrawn hurriedly and inexplicably, to the great relief of the soldiers who were exhausted by the long days and nights of uninterrupted vigilance. The distraction which saved Fort Pitt from falling to the Indians turned out to be the battle of Bushy Run.

Population in 1763

At the time of the outbreak of Pontiac's War there were only a few very small settlements in that part of the Ohio Valley lying west of the Alleghenies, and Bedford may be regarded as the extreme verge of the Pennsylvania frontier. Sporadic attempts were made by a few hardy settlers to establish homes. Around Fort Pitt in the spring of 1763 were the cabins of traders' families and perhaps a small forest farm here and there. Around Fort Ligonier were the cabins also of several traders and a few settlers: Robert Reed, near the present Reed schoolhouse;

Log Cabin of 1760 Given to the Fort Ligonier Memorial Foundation by the Albert Jones Family

Charles and James Clifford on Mill Creek; Isaac Stimble; James Flack. From Bedford to Fort Pitt, a distance of 100 miles with Fort Ligonier about midway, stretched the vast interminable forest. The fort and the little clearings adjacent to them, as well as Byerley's Clearing at Bushy Run, were mere specks in the wilderness. Byerley's Clearing at Bushy Run was about halfway between Fort Pitt and Fort Ligonier and included a blockhouse built as a refugee for the Byerleys and other settlers as early as 1761.

That there be no misapprehension as to the size of the garrisons located at these forts at this time, there is this quote from a letter written by Colonel Bouquet to General Monckton who was in charge at Fort Pitt on June 29, 1760.

> ".....I have only to relieve Bushy Run, Ligonier and Stony Creek (Stoyestown) one sergeant and six privates at Bushy Run; Lieutenant Blane, 1 sergeant, and 1 corporal, and 18 at Ligonier; 1 sergeant and 6 at Stony Creek."

Later in a letter written on December 2, 1761, Bouquet stated that he had sent small forces of Royal Americans to Bedford, Stony Creek, and Fort Ligonier and one sergeant and two men to Bushy Run. Of course the size of the garrisons varied from time to time.

Siege of Fort Ligonier and Fort Bedford

Fort Ligonier again made its mark in history. In the fort was a small garrison of Royal Americans under Captain Archibald Blane, together with many stores and munitions which the Indians wanted. As long as Ligonier was able to come to the aid of Fort Pitt, the Indian attacks would be unavailing and therefore the Indian leaders knew that the destruction of Fort Ligonier came first. Then there would be nothing to prevent them from driving the hated invaders back over the mountains.

In the meantime all settlers for miles around, as far as Byerley's at Bushy Run, had received warning and had taken refuge in Fort Ligonier. On June 3, 1763, the Indians attacked and were driven off. For two months, until Colonel Bouquet came on August 2 with his little army of relief, Lieutenant Blane succeeded in holding the fort against the frequent Indian attacks.

At the same time that Fort Ligonier was besieged, the warriors of Guyasuta and Pontiac attacked Fort Bedford. There were many more settlers around Bedford than around Ligonier and though many fled to the fort, a great number were killed or taken by the Indians. Fort Bedford too, in spite of the horrible slaughter sustained from the Indians, remained untaken.

As previously noted, Bouquet had left Fort Pitt in charge of Captain Ecuyer and had gone to Philadelphia. It was there that he heard the alarming reports of Pontiac's entrance into the Ohio and Allegheny Valleys. He appealed to his Commander-in-Chief for troops; the response was a pitifully small force of 500 men. With this inadequate number and insufficient supplies, he dared not start from Carlisle, for even that far east terror and consternation were reigning supreme. Hence, instead of immediately receiving the help he had expected, he lost precious time waiting for wagons, pack horses, and supplies. Not until July 18 was he ready to leave Carlisle, and then some of his troops were so weak and sick that they had be carried in wagons.

The bravest of men were required to traverse two hundred miles of wilderness, infested by the savage enemy and haunted by the bones of Braddock's men. Each day they passed the depressing sight of the deserted, devastated cabins of the unfortunate settlers. It is well that the leader of this intrepid army was a man of determination. Bouquet rested three days in Bedford and learned the details of the Indian attacks from the commander, Captain Curry. No scouts with communications could get through anymore so there was no news from Fort Pitt.

Bouquet left Bedford on July 28 and after a tiresome journey over the mountains he reached Ligonier on August 2. The Indians fled at his approach. The besieged within the fort were in a frenzy of joy at the approach of the Redcoats. Bouquet was greatly concerned because no news of Fort Pitt had been able to reach even Ligonier, and because he had no idea where the Indians had gone. He was sure, however, that his every move was being watched. The only advantage he had was that of being very familiar with the route to Pittsburgh.

Battle of Bushy Run

Besides his wagons and most of the cattle, Bouquet left men to reinforce the garrison at Ligonier. He took only pack horses that he might move at full speed. His first stop was to be at Byerley's Clearing at Bushy Run. Byerley himself had joined Bouquet at Ligonier and led the advance toward Bushy Run. No sooner had they arrived when the Indians, coming from Fort Pitt, attacked ferociously; the most bitterly contested battle between the Indian and the white man had begun.

All day the Indians charged, were driven back, charged and were driven back, again and again, with almost no loss to the Indians sheltered in the woods. Bouquet was completely surrounded on an elevation with no chance to change his position. During that first terrible night there was no sleep as the weary soldiers waited for the dawn and a new attack by the bloodthirsty enemy. Bouquet's mind was filled with gloomy forebodings. At dawn the expected attack came with renewed fury. They tried again and again to break through the barricade but were fought off by the bayonets of the English, the English who were growing wearied and weakened by the strain while the Indians grew bold and more confident of victory.

A Masterly Stratagem

At this point Bouquet conceived a masterly stratagem. Arranging his troops in a manner that would appear to the enemy to be covering a retreat, he left an inviting opening near the center of the barricaded circle. The Indians rushed headlong to the attack and fired heavily. At what seemed to be their moment of victory their right flank was attacked by Major Campbell's troops and attacked so relentlessly that they retreated. All four companies joined in the pursuing attack and the Indians fled.

The suffering from thirst was almost greater than from gunfire so that their chief concern was for water, food, rest, and care for the wounded. Scarcely had they encamped when they were plagued with yet another Indian assault. A quick return of fire dispersed the persevering savages, and Bouquet's men were left in peace to bury the dead, make litters for the wounded, and set up camp for the night. Four days later they reached Fort Pitt, just ten days after the Indians had withdrawn their two-month siege in an effort to stop at Bushy Run the advance of the English. The garrison, having had news neither of the withdrawal of the Indians nor of the advance of the English, were overjoyed.

Bouquet received high praise for the success of his campaign. It was the first victory that had been won by the British over the warriors of Pontiac and Guyasuta in the Pennsylvania area. The Bushy Run battlefield is now a Pennsylvania State Park in commemoration of Bouquet's feat.

Bouquet Plans Attack on Indians

The Indian forces were composed of Delawares, Shawnees, Mingoes, Mohicans, Wyandots, Miamis, and Ottawas. Guyasuta was probably the leader. Their raids on the Pennsylvania settlements continued but no further attack was made on Fort Pitt. Bouquet's forces were so depleted that he could not pursue the Indians until the following year when he received new forces and was able to penetrate the Indian country.

Meanwhile Bouquet kept open the line of communication to the east so that Fort Ligonier and the other garrisons could be supplied with provisions, ammunition, and supplies that they might be able to protect themselves and the surrounding settlers against surprise attacks.

Many letters passed between Lieutenant Blane at Ligonier and Colonel Bouquet at Fort Pitt over a period of several months following the battle of Bushy Run, until Bouquet left Fort Pitt in January of 1764 to return to the east. In these letters Lieutenant Blane complained constantly of the sad state of the garrison at Ligonier and wished to be relieved of his command. Captain Ecuyer at Fort Bedford made like complaints. The provisional militia which had been gathered from among traders and refugees at the forts was completely worthless; for this reason Bouquet decided to return east to raise troops for his intended invasion of the Indian country west of Fort Pitt. By August he had an army of 900, but it was a troublesome, undisciplined lot. He appealed to Virginia for additional troops, which arrived at Fort Pitt late in September, and brought his strength up to 1500.

Before he departed with his forces from Fort

Pitt a party of Delaware chiefs approached him but could not give a satisfactory account of their mission. Bouquet retained two of their number as hostages and sent the others away. Soon afterwards the Six Nations sent emissaries in an effort to dissuade him from marching into Indian country, but they too were sent away with the message that he would move immediately into their territory unless they would at once agree to his conditions of peace.

Council of Peace

There was no response, so he carried out his threat and by October 15 he was in the very heart of Red Man's land. Six Indian Chiefs came to meet him with the information that all of the chiefs were assembled a short distance away and were ready and anxious to enter into negotiations for peace. Councils were held October 17 and 20 with the chiefs of the Delawares, Shawnees, and Mingoes. Bouquet exercised the prerogative of the conqueror and berated them for perfidy and cruelty, but conveniently made no reference to the acts of the white men which in many cases rivaled and surpassed those of the Indians. He dictated terms as befitted a victor and then took hostages for the safe delivery of any white captives. Bouquet kept his army well-disposed to impress the Indians, and captives soon began to arrive at the designated spot at the forks of the Muskingum. Messages had been sent to all the villages and a total of 206 captives were returned. One hundred more were released after later councils were held. The number of Pennsylvania captives released was 116.

Many Captives Prefer Indian Life

It is interesting to note that captives of the Indians were always treated with kindness when adopted as members of a tribe or Indian family. They were not made slaves; women and children were respected. No instance of the violation of a woman's honor was found. Just as was true of the captives returned after the French and Indian War, some of those set free were overjoyed to be reunited with their loved ones, while others had become so fond of their adopted families that they refused to be parted from them. Many a white woman returned with her Indian husband to live with the tribes; many an Indian warrior followed his white wife back to Pennsylvania at the risk of his life. There has never been a complete list of the returned captives, but those from Pennsylvania are recorded in Hale Sipe's *Indian Wars of Pennsylvania.*

Few men did more than the Swiss soldier, Colonel Henry Bouquet, to bring peace and quiet to the Western Pennsylvania frontier. It is sad that his fate should be to die of yellow fever in 1765 at his assignment in Pensacola, Florida, and that the place of his grave is not known today. Colonel Bouquet does, however, have a memorial in Pittsburgh; it is the Old Blockhouse at Fort Pitt which he built in place of previously destroyed buildings.

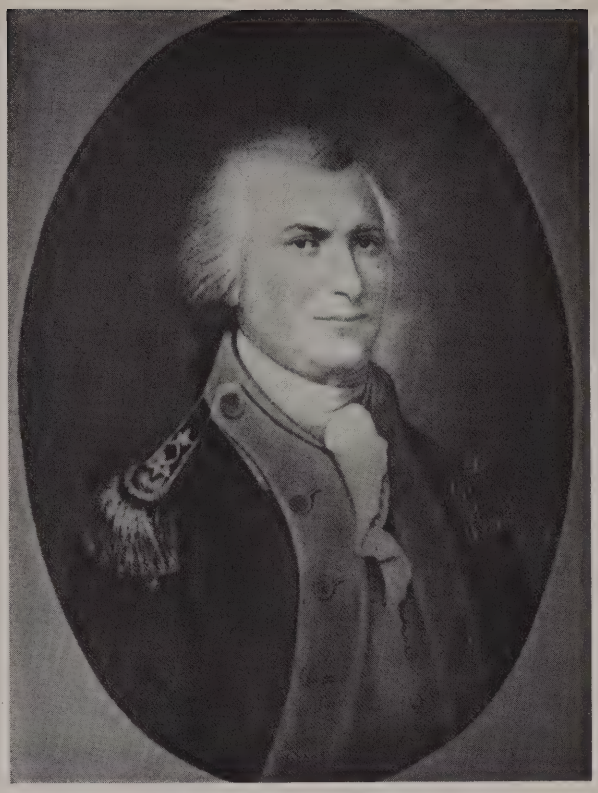
Settlers Defy Terms of Peace

At the close of Pontiac's War the King of England issued a proclamation enjoining all persons who had settled on land not purchased by or ceded to England to remove themselves therefrom, as the land belonged to the Indians. The Governor of Pennsylvania issued a similar proclamation but the frontiersman disregarded both edicts, broke the treaties, and cold-bloodedly killed any Indians they met while they flocked to the territory and took up land wherever it suited them to do so. To these frontiersmen who were reputedly good, pious people, the Indian was of less merit than a dog. They could steal his land, kill and scalp his friends and family, and then be shocked when he retaliated. After protests from the Indians became louder, Governor John Penn again ordered the settlers to leave. They remained. Finally a great conference was held at Fort Pitt in the spring of 1768, which more than a thousand Indian leaders and warriors attended. The council was directed by George Croghan, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Pennsylvania. Tribes of the Delawares, Shawnees, Six Nations, Mohicans, and Wyandots were represented and the result was the purchase of a large tract of land by the Penns. The tract extended from New York to the mouth of the Tennessee River and west of the Alleghenies. Two of the tribes, the Delawares and the Shawnees, did not approve of the sale. Ten thousand pounds were paid to the Indians in the 1768 purchase, the last purchase made by the Penns. A land office was opened in 1769 and settlers in even greater numbers flocked to the territory. Previous

to this time military permits to land had been given to settlers. Much of the land around Ligonier was settled by permission of Arthur St. Clair, the commander in charge of the fort in 1767.

Formation of Westmoreland County

The land included in the Penns' purchase in 1768 from the Indians was under the jurisdiction of Cumberland County. In 1771 Bedford County was organized with the Ohio River as the western boundary. When the British evacuated Fort Pitt in the autumn of 1772, the settlers west of Laurel Hill as far as Pittsburgh felt that they needed a closer knit organization; hence, they formed Westmoreland County. The original, or "Old Westmoreland," included the present counties of Westmoreland, Fayette, Greene, Washington, the part of Allegheny and Armstrong counties lying south of the Allegheny, and the part of Indiana County lying south of the purchase line of 1768, an area of about 4,700 square miles. The man whose influence and interest were of most value in organizing Westmoreland County was a resident of Ligonier Valley, General Arthur St. Clair.



General Arthur St. Clair

General Arthur St. Clair

His is one of the most colorful and illustrious names connected with Ligonier Valley. General Arthur St. Clair's picture belongs in the center of any story of this area. The story of his life began in Scotland where he was born of noble parentage and where he went on to be educated at the University of Edinburgh. The law of primogeniture prevented his inheriting a title and wealth, so he chose to become a physician. After one year's apprenticeship to a famed doctor he abandoned his promising career to respond at the age of 23, as many another youth did, to the bugle call of patriotism.

The French and Indian War had erupted and William Pitt, the new Prime Minister, was able to lure young men from all walks of life to serve the Crown. General St. Clair received an Ensign's commission dated May 13, 1757, and sailed for America. He was assigned to General Jeffrey Amherst's command and placed in the division of General Wolfe. With Wolfe he shared one of the most daring and romantic campaigns in American history on the night they silently floated down the St. Lawrence to Quebec, and Wolfe prophetically repeated Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" with the final line "The paths of glory lead but to the grave." St. Clair was with those who climbed the supposedly unscalable Heights of Abraham that dark night and was there when Wolfe received his death wound.

Settles in Ligonier Valley

From Quebec he was sent to Boston where he married Phoebe Bayard, a well-born wealthy woman, and thus was St. Clair even further committed to the New World. A legacy of 14,000 pounds from his wife's estate enabled him to acquire a huge holding of land in Ligonier Valley. To this was added a military service grant. A few years after his resignation from the army in 1762 he moved to his estate where he built a pretentious house as befitted his wealth and position and named it "The Hermitage." The mansion has long since gone, but one room has been preserved in a house built on the

original site. In this room is the original, beautifully carved mantel. "The Hermitage" was surrounded by 400 acres of wooded land. The house with the one preserved room is a mile and a half north of Ligonier on Route 711; before the house is a stone marker bearing an historical inscription. The building has been purchased by the Fort Ligonier Memorial Foundation as a part of the reconstruction of the fort.

Soon after coming to Ligonier Valley, St. Clair became agent for the Penn family and in 1767 he was made commander of Fort Ligonier by General Thomas Gage, who was then in command of the English armies in America. His duties at the fort were both military and civil.

Political Activity

It might have been well for the critics of St. Clair, both his contemporaries and later day

Original Mantel from St. Clair's Home

The Hermitage

historians, to consider what the espousal of the Colonial cause meant to him. By birth and tradition, by his service to the English army, and by his long, close association with the Penns he should naturally have been bound to the interests of Great Britain. With his inherited wealth, he could have lived a life of ease in any foreign land. Instead he cast his lot with the struggling colonists, gave up a life as a landed gentleman for the vigors of Colonial warfare. Even more, he was interested in the political developments. As soon as Bedford County came into being he became Justice of the County Courts there as well as Prothonotary and Register and Recorder for the County. He continued to accumulate official positions and by 1776, in addition to these mentioned, he was Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions, Clerk of the Orphans Court, and Judge of Probate.

The establishment of Westmoreland County added fuel to the fire of controversy between Pennsylvania and Virginia so that, inevitably, St. Clair was involved in the disputes between the two colonies. When Governor Dunmore of Virginia made a visit to Fort Pitt in 1773 with plans to set up a Virginia authority in the territory, he enlisted the support of Doctor John Connolly, a resident of Fort Pitt. Together they formulated a provisional government with the capital at West Augusta near Fort Pitt, and also changed the name of Fort Pitt to Fort Dunmore. With like officiousness they went on to Hannastown and by force assumed control of the government.

For many months St. Clair attended to the interests of the Penns while Dr. Connolly performed for Governor Dunmore. There followed a series of arrests and counter-arrests, proclamations and counter-proclamations, bitterness and strife between the adherents of Virginia and those of Pennsylvania. In all the disputed territory in Southwest Pennsylvania there was a virtual reign of terror that disrupted the lives and affairs of the inhabitants. Always in the center of the conflict was the village of Hannastown. Connolly seemed to be gaining position, but before there was opportunity for a real clash the greater conflict of the American Revolution intervened. Two Virginia regiments and two Pennsylvania regiments came out of the territory, as well as many independent companies. There was the same conflict when the Virginians acknowledged themselves to be Royalist while the Pennsylvania troops became Colonials.

Hannastown Resolutions and the Rattlesnake Flag

When it became apparent to the colonists of Western Pennsylvania that the Crown was no longer protective and was in fact becoming more openly oppressive, a meeting was called at which the famous "Hannastown Resolutions" were created. Virtually they were a declaration of independence.

The First Battalion of Westmoreland County adopted the flag with the motto "Don't Tread on Me" and it was this Rattlesnake Flag which they carried when they marched to Washington's aid, though it was never actually used in battle. That flag is now displayed in the Pennsylvania State Museum.

While St. Clair no doubt had much to do with drawing up the resolutions, he felt they were but another step toward civil war. At the same time, a similar set of resolutions was adopted in Pittsburgh and Dr. Connolly's reign was over. St. Clair sent men to Pittsburgh to arrest Connolly and to bring him to Ligonier, but the protest from the Virginia adherents was so strong he was released.

Active Resistance Against England

It was a soul-shattering struggle for St. Clair to break with the mother country and to take up the side of active resistance, but he made his choice and was commissioned a Colonel in the Colonial Army on June 3, 1776. His first active assignment was to take a regiment of six companies to relieve Arnold who had encountered difficulty at Quebec. In this fracas St. Clair's service was so spectacular that he was made a Brigadier-General and was called to Washington's army. He was with Washington at White Plains, Trenton, and Princeton. For his part in the battles of Trenton and Princeton he was elevated to the rank of Major-General, the only Pennsylvanian to receive that rank during the Revolution.

The highly important assignment of defending Ticonderoga, which the British desperately

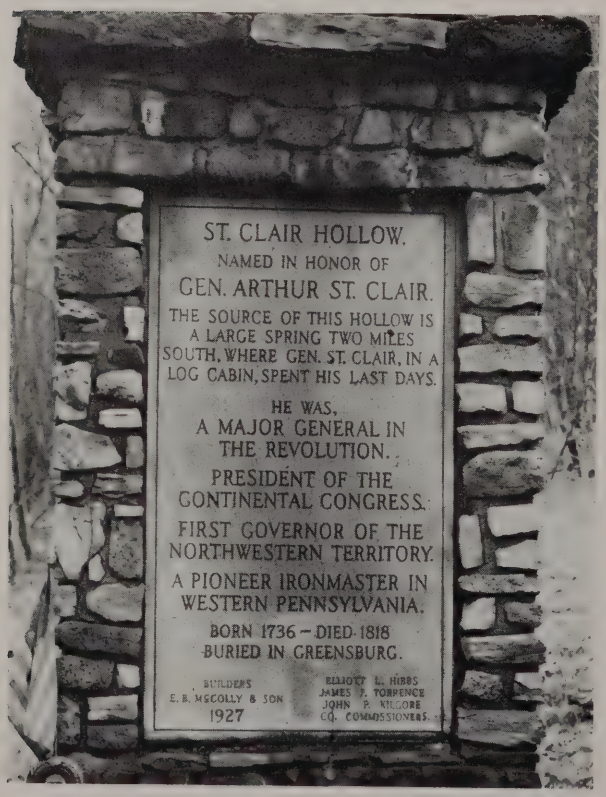
needed to capture, was given to General St. Clair. A brilliant coup by the British General Burgoyne, and St. Clair was forced either to retreat or to be captured. St. Clair chose to retreat. All the blame for the evacuation was undeservedly placed on St. Clair, who simply felt he would be of more help in retreat than as a captive, and he had to submit to a court-martial to be exonerated. Though the shadow was never quite erased from his reputation, Washington retained his trust in him and gave him the assignment of taking charge of West Point after Arnold's defection. He was also selected to sit on the military jury which tried Major Andre as a spy, and was in daily consultation with Washington at Yorktown, standing guard at the final moment when the long contest was decided in favor of the Colonies.

St. Clair As a Statesman

Many historians give St. Clair's military career precedence when really his strongest accomplishments were civil and political; he was a statesman of the Revolutionary period. While residing in Philadelphia after the war, he sat for two years on the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, and then was elected to the office of President of Congress which was the highest office in the government and comparable to that of presidency of the United States. While holding that office he was instrumental in passing the Ordinance of 1787, and after the adoption of the Constitution and election of Washington as the first president of the new United States, St. Clair was appointed Governor of the Northwest Territory on July 15, 1788.

His duties in that capacity were very extensive. He was governor and lawgiver; he had power to form counties, appoint officers, build forts, organize towns, establish military roads; in short, he was the government. His area of jurisdiction extended over the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. Within that area he was confronted by the Indian who was still causing distress to the white settlers so that with the military title of Commander-in-Chief he proceeded to raise an army to drive the Indians yet farther west.

Marker at St. Clair Hollow



Defeat by Indians

At this stage St. Clair made what was probably the greatest mistake of his career. Without adequate knowledge of the country or of his opponent's strength, and without proper preparation for such an undertaking, St. Clair invaded the Indian territory and attacked. This unwise decision led to a disastrous defeat, though his men fought bravely for three hours before they were forced to retreat in confusion.

Public opinion was strong against St. Clair and there was no way of circulating any explanation whatsoever to lighten the criticism. Washington exploded in fury when he heard of it but insisted that St. Clair be treated justly. The investigation which exculpated him apparently restored Washington's confidence, but Jefferson, then president, was not willing to retain St. Clair in an important position. He was forthwith removed as governor of the Northwest Territory in 1792 and General Anthony Wayne was appointed as his successor.

During St. Clair's absence from Ligonier Valley from 1776 to 1802 the Fort and country around played a consequential part in the Revo-

lutionary War. St. Clair had repaired the fort while he was stationed there in 1774, but it had fallen into disrepair again so that when Colonel Lochry, County-Lieutenant of Westmoreland County, was in charge in 1777 he rebuilt it again. It was well that he did, for Guyasuta, in the employ of the British, sent out bands of marauders who killed and scalped the settlers and spread such terror that they could not tend their farms. They turned to the fort as a place of refuge and of obtaining supplies. There are many recorded incidents in the annals of Pennsylvania to illustrate the difficulty with the Indians.

Encounters with the Indians

One story that has been passed down through the generations is that of the Robert Campbell family who resided near the Pleasant Grove Church in Cook Township. While Mr. Campbell was absent, and the three sons, Robert, William, and Thomas, were in the harvest fields, a band of Senecas captured the three boys. On to the house went the savage band where they killed Mrs. Campbell and her infant, and proceeded to capture the girls, Polly, Isabella, and Sarah. The youngest girl was killed; and the other five were taken to New York. At the end of four years the girls were released and returned home. Robert escaped in 1782 and found his way back to the valley. William was exchanged at the close of the war, but the fate of Thomas is not known.

The Andrew Harman family lived between Stahlstown and Donegal. In 1777 Mr. Harman and three companions were ambushed and killed. The next year, as the Harman boys were chasing horses from a field of wheat, three Senecas who were lying in wait captured the boys. They spent the night in such proximity to Fort Ligonier that they could hear voices of the garrison. The boys saw that one of the Indians had their father's tobacco pouch and felt quite sure these Indians were of the band that had killed him the preceding summer. The Senecas adopted the boys into their tribe. John died within a year but Andrew was sold after two years to a British officer in exchange for a bottle of rum, taken to London where he spent two years as servant, and was exchanged and reunited with his mother.

Another interesting story is of the Ulery family who lived about two miles south of Ligonier. In July of 1778 the three girls, Julian, Elizabeth, and Abigail, were raking hay close to the house when they were attacked by Indians. They fled to the house but only Julian and Elizabeth reached it. Mr. Ulery had spied what was happening and shot through the door, wounding one of the savages, and causing enough confusion that Abigail was able to escape into the woods and conceal herself from capture. The following day Julian and Elizabeth returned to the fields and were again attacked and this time captured, though not without a struggle. At the little stream near Brant's schoolhouse, the Indians gave them a choice of captivity or death. The girls continued to struggle and were tomahawked and scalped on the spot. Elizabeth was able to rise, so an Indian sank a tomahawk into her head. Julian was conscious but still, and the Indians left her for dead. She recovered but was never strong and her scalp never healed well. She lived on with her sister Abigail whose descendants, the Slaters, have lived on that same farm for generations.

Near the present location of Rachelwood, Alexander Negley had settled a farm. During the war he joined Moorehead's Rangers, formed to guard the Westmoreland frontier. A detachment of the company was stationed at Fort Ligonier early in 1778 during the time the Indians were raiding the area. Mr. Negley had gone to the relief of his family and had sent them to the fort in a horse-drawn sled while he stayed behind to intercept the pursuing Indians. By keeping up a running fire he was able to stave off the attackers until Mrs. Negley and the children were close enough to the fort to dash to safety and he quickly followed without injury. They remained at Fort Ligonier for several months and in the summer of 1778 moved to the vicinity of Fort Pitt.

Fort Palmer

In Fairfield Township was a blockhouse named Fort Palmer. It had been erected as a haven for the settlers as had been so many other small fortifications in that territory. In October 1777 a raid on Fort Palmer accounted for the lives of eleven men. The same month two children were killed nearby and a few miles from

Ligonier three men were killed and several captured. On October 18 James Clifford shot an Indian near Bunger's Spring.

Depot For Supplies

All these incidents and many others are in the journal of Thomas Galbraith, a resident of Ligonier and a Commissioner of Westmoreland County. To him was assigned the duty of rebuilding the fort, patrolling the area, and keeping a store of provisions and ammunition for the militia, or, in emergency, for the settlers. The people of Ligonier Valley, through Galbraith, appealed to the Pennsylvania Council of Safety which, in turn, appealed to the Continental Congress on behalf of the settlers and begged for immediate relief. Supplies were sent from the east and Fort Ligonier was again the principal depot of State and Continental supplies throughout the Revolution.

Indian Attacks Instigated by the British

The Indians were displeased because of the settlers' advance to the territory west of the Alleghenies and also were very retaliative toward them for the persecution against the Indians. These atrocities are recorded in the Pennsylvania Annals and clearly illustrate that the white man outdid the Indian in cruelty and vindictiveness. The British allied with the Indians to harass the settlers. In fact the raids were instigated by the British and it was truly a travesty that white men should adopt Indian ways and offer bounties for the scalps of other white men. Hamilton, the British commander at Detroit, earned for himself the name of the "Hair-Buyer General."

It is indeed a wonder that any settlers remained in Western Pennsylvania during the Revolution and the remaining years of that century. The tales of raids, captures, and atrocities make such reading that one's sensibilities are shaken beyond telling.

Hannastown Destroyed

The destruction of Hannastown was the hardest blow dealt by the Indians within the boundaries of Westmoreland at that time. Hannastown had been the county seat since April 6, 1773, when a temporary court was set up to serve the new county until legislative action should be taken defining a permanent county seat. It would then naturally have been the striking point for the Indians' retaliation.

Coming from New York, Guyasuta descended the Allegheny to a spot just above Kittanning where he left his canoes and marched overland to Westmoreland County. On the afternoon of July 13, 1782, the Indians arrived at Hannastown where the stockade was defended by twenty men with inadequate equipment. After repeated unsuccessful attacks, they set fire to the thirty houses and other buildings in the settlement. The courthouse and one other dwelling resisted firing. That night the Indians retired while the frontiersmen prepared for a new attack in the morning. The assault did not come and by the time the settlers were sure the Indians had really retreated they were too late to overtake them.

There were raids through all of the county and charges on the forts of the territory all during that July of 1782. Many men, women, and children were killed or taken as captives; livestock was killed or stolen; homes were destroyed.

Fort Ligonier Falls Into Ruin

Fort Ligonier was again occupied in the summer of 1782 when a ranging party of twenty-two privates and two officers of the men from the Hannastown area were stationed at Ligonier for the defense and protection of the area. There were no further raids into the valley of Ligonier after this time; in fact, no large raiding party came to Western Pennsylvania after the autumn of 1782. Actually the spring of 1783 saw the end of the story of Fort Ligonier. It was no longer occupied by soldiers and since it had been constructed of such perishable materials, it did not withstand weathering and rapidly fell into decay.

The First Thanksgiving

"Hair-Buyer General" Harry Hamilton, who had not only sanctioned but instigated the British-led Indian raids, was succeeded by the more humane general, Sir Guy Carleton. He had always been shocked by the horror of savagery and immediately sent orders to all British officers on the frontier to cease posthaste and entirely the use of Indian raiding parties. The orders did not reach all points in time to prevent all further massacres but soon peace and quiet pre-

vailed. On the last Thursday of November 1782 the frontiersmen held a general thanksgiving to demonstrate their great joy. Their joy was short-lived. In the spring small bands of Indians appeared and began to annoy them but it soon became evident that these parties were Indians returning from long hunting trips who had not heard of the peace between Great Britain and America.

No sooner had a lasting peace been created on the frontier when restless settlers pushed still farther westward and developed a new frontier with new problems, new to that area, but much like those just solved. The Federal Government finally realized that the only way to put a stop to the Indian invasions of the Ohio settlements was to carry the war into the Indian country.

Penetrating the Indian Country

The first expedition was led by General Josiah Harmar, who started out in 1789 but was successful only in causing the Indians to abandon some of their villages. In the year of 1790 the raids yet continued. President Washington ordered Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia to raise militia to join General Harmar for a renewed assault. This attack on October 20, 1790, was poorly organized and ended in failure with over two hundred men killed. This failure caused great alarm among the settlers as the Indians grew more bold. Westmoreland County was worried too, though they fortunately had only three settlers killed during 1791. Still more blockhouses were erected by the settlers as places of refuge. The second campaign was the one in charge of General St. Clair and the one which ended in failure due to unwise preparation.

Battle of Fallen Timbers

Since the country was still being molested and Washington was feeling the sting of the disgrace from the two defeats, he authorized another expedition and selected "Mad Anthony" Wayne as the leader. This time there would be no failure. Wayne was a stern disciplinarian and by harsh measures forged his untutored recruits into a machine capable of carrying on a fomidable campaign. On August 20, 1794, he came to battle with the Indians in what has become known as the battle of "Fallen Timbers," so called from the trees which had been laid low by a cyclone and behind which the soldiers fought. The battle developed into a hand-to-hand fight and the Indians were driven back and defeated. Soon after this crushing defeat the Indians sent delegates seeking peace. The treaty was signed in August 1795 at Greenville, Ohio. With this treaty came the passing of the Western Pennsylvania frontier.

Indians Disappear From Valley

The Indians as a race of people disappeared from Ligonier Valley years ago, unfortunate victims of their inability to understand that the sword of vengeance proves only too often the blade of self-destruction, the realization of which his professing Christian white brother is trying yet to grasp, even in this mid-twentieth century.

It seems incredible that so much history could be made in one spot in such a few years. It seems just as incredible that human beings, in the face of all the dangers and hardships, continued to brave the rigors of pioneer life so that at the conclusion of the bloody days of Indian, French, and British strife there were more than 100 families with well-established homes in Ligonier Valley. Such has been the history of progress as each generation became the stepping-stone for the next.

Ligonier Valley

From the early 1800's

to the present

Old Mill at Charles Freeman's

Iron Furnace at Ross Mountain Park

Hillsview Iron Furnace

Beyond the Bounds of the Stockade

The earliest pioneers considered farming the most vital occupation but with such a wealth of resources it was natural that industry should develop, particularly since the Revolutionary War was over and Indian attacks had subsided to give way to peace and an interest in land beyond the settlement limits. The very first industries were those closely related to everyday needs of the settlers—the grist mill, the sawmill, the blacksmith shop.

Completely covered with dense forests, endowed with streams for hydraulic power, abounding in limestone deposits and a sufficient supply of iron ore, the valley was a natural spot for the manufacture of iron to grow into a major industry and flourish for half a century. There were eleven furnaces in the valley, each with its own settlement; usually they were built between the creeks and hills. The furnaces were hollowed pyramids of stone with bridges connecting the adjoining hill to the top of the furnace for easy access to iron ore and charcoal. When the iron was melted and had settled to the base of the furnace it was drawn off into ditches; here it cooled and hardened and then was hauled to the foundries. Still in existence in the valley are several stoves and a dinner bell which had been cast in a foundry located where the senior high school now stands. When the Bessemer process of iron manufacture was developed the valley furnaces were abandoned. Even today in perfect preservation is the Ross Furnace of 1814 at Ross Mountain Park; and in fair condition, the Hillsview Furnace.

Building a Turnpike

Fostering the growth of the iron industry was the building of the turnpike which was laid down through the region in 1817. It had a great influence on all subsequent development of the Ligonier Valley area as well as much of the state. The Forbes Road, built primarily as a military road in 1758, had served its purpose well. The Old State Road of 1791 was really a pack horse road that answered well for the times but when Pennsylvania with real foresightedness authorized the construction of the pike in 1806 and agreed to pay two thirds of the cost, the future of Ligonier and other towns along the

way was established. For several decades the Philadelphia-Pittsburgh Turnpike served as the chief route from east to west in Pennsylvania.

Borough and Property Development

Synchronous with the completion of more permanent roads came the development of property and building of sturdy stone and brick structures, many of which are yet standing. When Westmoreland County was formed in 1773 one of the first duties of the new government at Hannastown was to divide the territory into townships. The township in which Ligonier Valley is located was first called Fairfield. It was not until 1822 that the township and borough of Ligonier were simultaneously formed with a combined population of 1916 residents.

In 1817, at the completion of the turnpike, John Ramsay offered for sale a plan of lots near Old Fort Ligonier and named it Wellington, but of course it was usually referred to as Ramsaytown until its incorporation as a borough in 1834. When General Ramsay recorded his plan of lots in Greensburg in 1818 he also recorded the stipulation that purchasers of the corner lots on the Diamond should build "within the space of seven years a two-story house of either brick or frame painted, or otherwise to forfeit the sum of one hundred dollars." General Ramsay's idea was that the forfeits collected could be used to build a courthouse in case Ligonier should be chosen as the county seat. The public square, or Diamond as so many call it, was designated not as a decorative feature but as a useful area, a parking spot for the constant stream of horses and wagons through the town.

Many Years Ago on the Diamond

Romantic Days of the Stagecoach

The turnpike brought one of the most picturesque and romantic features of the past—the stagecoach. Richly lined with plush, painted gaily but tastefully, and well-cushioned for comfort, these coaches, while designed to carry nine or ten passengers plus the driver, often carried more if the weather was fine since it was considered quite a treat to ride on the top. There were no steel springs but leather straps were stretched in such a way that it produced a pleasant swinging motion. There were several stagecoach companies, each trying to outdo the other with their beautiful horses and trappings. These horses had especially strong build for endurance and were capable of doing ten miles an hour under favorable conditions, though the average speed was about eight miles an hour. A system of relays where relief spans were supplied about every ten or twelve miles enabled them to maintain this average all day. The drivers were specially trained in the care and handling of horses and they had to be quick to meet an emergency since they drove in all kinds of weather, all seasons of the year, all times of day and night. And it is really true that there was enough traffic to make driving hazardous, especially with such mettlesome horses. Ligonier's recent snowstorms make it easy to see how in the time of no big bulldozers and snow shovels the passengers were often stranded at one of the picturesque inns along the way.

As travel increased these inns grew from rough shelters to the enchanting structures which present day innkeepers try so hard to emulate. Many of these inns became famous as the wealthy folks traveled the turnpike. One of the old stagecoach stops was the Old Compass Inn built in 1799 in Laughlintown and which is still there in excellent preservation. Even then the future of Ligonier was chartered as a vacation spot when the Pittsburghers came to the valley to be entertained by the hospitable landlords who provided the best of food and drink and a pleasant spot in which to enjoy the company of the other guests. If we could transplant ourselves into the past and in spirit be seated comfortably before

Old Compass Inn, Stagecoach Stop of the Past

the great fireplace, we might see passing by the open door a straggling drove of cattle, a lumbering Conestoga wagon so strong that it could carry a huge load across the mountains to the eastern markets, another Conestoga wagon going west with a family seeking a new frontier, or a grand stagecoach thundering to a stop before the door to discharge splendid ladies and gentlemen, or to bring exciting news from the outside world. This era passed in 1852 with the coming of the railroad but many of the vistors recorded stories which, if collected, might rival Longfellow's "Tales of a Wayside Inn."

Million Dollar Coal Industry

The last impetus to the economic expansion of Ligonier was the opening of the coal mines in the nearby hills. For many years coal had been mined for local use and then in 1904 the Fort Ligonier Coal Company opened a mine on the Myers farm and began shipping coal. James Peters of Latrobe was the owner of that mine. In 1905 the Seger Brothers opened Old Colony Mine and later at least four other mines bore the name of Seger Fuel Company: Diamond I, Diamond II, St. Clair I, and St. Clair II. In Wilpen was a Shenango Furnace Company, later the Baton Coal Company, which operated for many years. The Ramsay Coal Company also shipped coal from Wilpen during the First World War. Still another major coal operation was the Westmoreland-Connellsville Coal and Coke Company of Fort Palmer. Mililons of dollars in wages were earned from the coal business in this area.

Valley Cut by Railroad Bed

The coal business could never have reached the peaks that it did without the railroad. Conestoga wagons were hardly the most efficient freight bearers when it came to coal. Canals and railroads built elsewhere in Pennsylvania had usurped most of the freight and passenger traffic to the extent that Ligonier Valley was isolated in contrast to the important position it had held in previous eras. Valley residents were much interested in being tied in to the main arteries of traffic once more, and the lumber, the stone, and the coal of the valley were influential in 1853 in the securing of a charter for a Latrobe and

First train of the Ligonier Valley Rail Road

1952893

Ligonier Rail Road. This Ligonier Valley Rail Road began operation in 1871 and the sixteen-mile road prospered with the community so that in the first decade of the new century the line was extended to the numerous coal works in the vicinity and even a new stone station-house replaced the old frame building.

The statistics from the yearly records indicate the need fulfilled by the Ligonier Valley Rail Road. From 1879 to 1951 a total of 9,349,-756 passengers boarded the train; 19,198,340 tons of coal and 5,240,616 tons of coke were taken from the valley in its cars. Stone, mainly from quarries at Long Bridge, comprised 4,899,529 tons of shipments. Lumber, bark, and ice brought the total tonnage to 30,123,209. The railroad reached its heyday during World War I with the great demand for coal. At the same time, the war was instrumental in truck development which meant highways. The Lincoln Highway was in a sense the beginning of the end of the Ligonier Valley Rail Road.

Ligonier Rail Road Abandoned

After 81 years of active railroading the L. V. R. R., familiarly called the "Doodlebug," reached the end of its run. On Sunday, August 31, 1952, a ceremony was conducted at the Ligonier Station to abandon officially the railroad of the valley to the pages of history.

In 1898 a standard-gage logging road, the Pittsburgh, Westmoreland & Somerset, was built

The Last Run of the L.V.R.R.

from Somerset to Latrobe where east and west connections could be made with the Pennsylvania Railroad. The Pittsburgh, Westmoreland & Somerset served the area until its close in 1916.

Idlewild Entrance

Mountainous Playground

The Ligonier Valley Rail Road not only promoted the business of the valley but also the recreational facilities of the mountainous playground. When the Mellon family in 1871 purchased the Ligonier-Latrobe line they acquired a heavily wooded tract of 400 acres on both sides of the right-of-way. It was a natural beauty spot with the Loyalhanna Creek cutting through it and didn't take long to grow into a large campground with picnic tables, shelter houses, and a large hall. An artificial lake was created for boating and fishing. A swimming pool, amusement rides, dances, aerial shows and entertainment, a ball field, refreshment stands, picnic tables by the score, make the still-wooded campground of Idlewild a favorite area for picnics and it is heavily scheduled during its summer season. In April 1931 the grounds were given into the hands of the Idlewild Management Company with C. C. Macdonald in charge; now his son, C. K. Macdonald, has assumed the position of director of the company.

Kiddieland — Idlewild

"Old Woman who lived in a Shoe"—
at Story Book Forest

Within recent years adjacent to Idlewild has grown up the enchanting fairyland of Story Book Forest. In its first year open to the public 65,000 visitors, not all of whom were children, wandered through the delightful Forest. Seven countries were represented in that number.

Besides the swimming pool at Idlewild, there is Ligonier Valley Beach about one mile east of Ligonier on Route 30. There are two nine-hole golf courses, one at the Ligonier Country Club and one at the private Rolling Rock Club. Two church camps have become permanent features of the valley—the First Presbyterian Church Camp of Pittsburgh about one mile north of Ligonier, and Camp Fairfield of the United Presbyterian Church about seven miles north of Ligonier on Route 711. Two Boy Scout camps, Duquesne in Rector and Twin Echo in Fairfield Township, and two Girl Scout camps, Camp Wesco, 12 miles south of Ligonier, and a very recent land purchase by the Allegheny Girl Scouts.

On Old Linn Run Road in Rector is the home of the Arts League of Ligonier Valley, a year-round countryside cultural center which was chartered June 26, 1953. Instruction in visual arts, music, dance, literature, crafts, photography, and nature study are but part of the program which also includes exhibitions, demonstrations, concerts, lectures, and forums. Miss Lucille Banks and Miss Pearl R. Reed are directors of the Arts League.

Rolling Rock Club

The late Richard Beatty Mellon was one of the first to buy property in Ligoner Valley and to enthuse others into buying also. At some time, and for perhaps more than one reason, he became attached to the valley. In 1882 Mr. Mellon's father, the Honorable Thomas Mellon, had purchased the Burnett Springs property of 131 acres. In the early 1900's the Saltzman place, the Stitely Farm, and the Anderson Farm were added to the Mellon property.

Realizing the future possibilites of the valley as a country retreat which wasn't too far from Pittsburgh, Mr. Mellon offered his property as a site for a club and at a meeting with close friends the Rolling Rock Club was organized and in 1917 was granted a charter. Rolling Rock grew and grew to now a 16,000-acre club. A golf course, riding trails, shooting preserves, club house, and swimming pool were established. Additional farms were added to the property and stocked with the best breeds of farm animals. Produce gardens, a dairy, sugar maple trees, buckwheat fields, fruit orchards, hay and grain fields all became part of the permanent aspects of the land.

Fox Hunting and Steeplechase

In 1920 the Rolling Rock Hunt was established by Mr. Mellon's son, Richard K., who is an ardent horseman and enthusiastic about fox hunting. English foxhounds were imported. In addition to the Rolling Rock property, hundreds of surrounding farms have permitted the Hunt to cross.

Closely associated to fox hunting is cross-country racing or the steeplechase and in 1934 R. K. Mellon and a group of friends organized the

Rolling Rock Hunt Racing Association. All through the years since then the early days of October are synonymous with the excitement of the International Gold Cup Steeplechase. The race course in the Loyalhanna Valley is not only one of the most beautiful but one of the best-designed in the country. The race is run over a 3½ mile brush course, seven obstacles to the mile, and several racing experts have proclaimed this course to be more difficult than the famous Aintree.

Scenes at the Rolling Rock Steeplechase

Rolling Rock Administration Building

Steeplechase Trophies

Laurel Mountain Slopes

Since 1940 when a natural ski terrain was spotted on the 3000-foot Laurel Mountain, Laurel Mountain Slopes have developed into one of the major skiing areas in the East. There are fifteen slopes of varying grades and two trails, six rope tows and a T-bar, two warming huts, a cafeteria, and a ski shop including rental equipment. Adding immensely to the entire season success of the Slopes is the recent addition of a snow machine. The Pennsylvania State Ski Championships are an annual event at the Laurel Slopes with more and more local skiers participating, an indication of the good results of the USEASA certified ski school with Doc Des Roches as director.

Junior Competition in Downhill Race

On the Tow at Laurel Mountain Ski Slopes

Popular Game Hunting

Everyone big enough to tote a gun goes hunting in Ligonier Valley. The first day of hunting season is a bad day to look for a garage mechanic, a dentist, a shopkeeper, or a doctor. Even the schools close for the first day of both small and big-game season and fishing season. Small game in Ligonier Valley implies rabbit, squirrel, grouse, pheasant, quail and turkey. Big game is rather limited to the white-tailed deer. Rainbow, brook, and brown trout and bass are the usual angler's catch.

Headquarters For Game Commission

That Ligonier Valley is an outdoor sports-minded area is further illustrated by the fact that the headquarters of the Southwest Division of the Pennsylvania Game Commission is in the town. The ten counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Green, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland are served. In December 1946 the Commission rented property from Clifford and Virginia Anderson on East Main Street. After the abandonment of the Ligonier Valley Rail Road the

Rail Road Stationhouse — now Pa. Game Commission Headquarters

Commission purchased the passenger station on West Main Street; it was dedicated April 6, 1957.

State Forest Development

The headquarters for a six-county division of the Pennsylvania State Department of Forest and Waters is also in Ligonier. The Forbes District, established in 1921, includes Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties. The first state forest land in Southwestern Pennsylvania was purchased in 1910. This purchase was 8532 acres lying on the summit of Laurel Hill in Somerset and Westmoreland Counties and was bought from the Byers and Allen Lumber Company at $5.00 an acre. Additional acquisitions have been made to a total of 49,709 acres, plus 4,026 acres in Laurel Hill State Park and 785 acres in Keystone. Twelve forest fire towers have been built and eight parks and picnic grounds made available to the public.

An intensive forest stock inventory, the Forest Management Plan, made in 1955, indicates the volume of timber on each local area and provides for an annual cut to be harvested for the 15-year duration of the plan. It provides for the removal of 71,180,000 board feet of saw timber and 11,621 cords of small timber each year. All timber sold is first marked so that the most desirable trees of most valubale species, spaced to best advantage, are left for future harvest.

Forester John R. Williams was in charge until early 1913 when he was succeeded by James L. McAlvoy. Later that same year V. M. Bearer asumed the position and held it until his retirement in 1957. In 1958 Stanley A. Walton was appointed District Forester.

Rachelwood Wildlife Preserve

In Ligonier Valley are two large wildlife preserves which, besides preserving wildlife, have propagating programs to increase the stock of game and fish for sportsmen in the valley. The Rachelwood Wildlife Research Preserve is located where James R. Mellon and his wife Rachel lived in the summers of 1890 to 1934. From early boyhood Richard K. Mellon spent many

Woodland Road — Powdermill Nature Reserve

vacations in the virgin forest wilderness of his Uncle James' and stored up an extensive knowledge of wildlife and forest lore. In 1947 he and his wife purchased the property, and in 1950 adopted a wildlife policy for the Rachelwood Preserve. Within the preserve are the native white-tailed deer, the European red-deer, and the North African dark fallow deer. Also there is a pure strain of Pennsylvania wild turkey, hybrid Rocky Mountain Big Horn sheep, Canadian geese, mallards, and many other mammals, game birds, and waterfowl.

Powdermill Native Reserve

A more recent wildlife reserve to be established in the valley is the Powdermill Nature Reserve which fulfilled a long-held dream of the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh of a biological preserve and field station in Western Pennsylvania. A gift from General and Mrs. Richard K. Mellon and Mr. and Mrs. Alan M. Scaife of 825 acres in Cook Township, about nine miles south of Ligonier and slightly east of Route 381, answered the Museum's wish. There has been no development of farms and homesites on the tract and, though most of it has been logged in the past, many large hemlocks remain, which makes it ideally suited for the scientific study of plant and animal life. Various habitat conditions are represented in the tract's 500-foot range of elevation—from about 1450 to 1950 feet—and along its three draining streams, Powdermill Run, Phoebe Run and a branch of Whiteoak Run.

Powdermill Nature Reserve will be an outdoor research laboratory where naturally occurring changes in vegetation and animal population may be observed and documented. The results undoubtedly will be of benefit to sportsmen, foresters, biologists, and nature lovers, It

Calverley Lodge Headquarters—Powdermill Nature Reserve

is not open to the public for recreational use because its primary purpose is to serve as a reservoir of unspoiled plant and animal communities for the future.

Field Research Laboratory

Two miles nearer to Ligonier than the Powdermill Reserve on the same Route 381 is the Southwestern Field Research Laboratory, the first such laboratory established in Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania State University. It was officially begun April 1, 1957, and was promoted by Robert H. McClintic of Chastity Hill Farm and Joseph H. Thurston, Westmoreland County Farm Agent.

The objectives of the regional agronomy research farm to serve Southwestern Pennsylvania are three-fold. First, it will provide a permanent station at which the research findings on crops, pastures, and soils from experiments in Centre County may be evaluated under conditions prevailing in this section of the state. Also it will provide aid in identifying regional agronomic problems and opportunities of agricultural production and management. Third, it provides a site for demonstration of superior materials, practices and methods of management for the benefit of local farm managers. Long-range experiments have begun under the direction of Superintendent L. D. Wissinger and already interesting findings are being recorded concerning the best uses of soil in this area of Pennsylvania.

Early Growth of Religion

Preserving wildlife, scientific study of plant and animal life, agronomy experiments are all parts of an educational attitude which was started as far back as 1765 when some of the German pioneers were planning organized church and school facilities. These hardworking, farsighted people took religion and education with them into the wilderness where they settled so that the first schools and churches of Westmoreland County were Lutheran and were scattered over a wide area. By 1769 the Scotch-Irish settlements were establishing churches though there had been group preaching meetings before that time. These hardy, whiskey-drinking, gun-toting, Bible-carrying frontiersmen spread Presbyterian churches throughout southwestern Pennsylvania, but the Baptist church had the distinction of being the oldest congregation in Fayette and Washington Counties.

Long before the birth of congregations there were Christian services in the wilderness. The Jesuit missionaries had conducted Roman Catholic masses in 1749 to 1754; Washington read the service of the Church of England over General Braddock's grave. The German Reformed and Methodist churches started congregations during this same period from 1760 to 1800. There were also Seventh Day Adventists and Dunkards and the Moravian missionaries, chief among whom was Christian Frederick Post.

Inter-denominational Differences

The differences which today separate the many Christian denominations were even more pronounced then, so that each preacher felt it was his bounden duty to deprecate all others from his own pulpit. An amusing episode was the sermon preached in Greensburg about 1825 by a Lutheran minister of note. Any gathering of people at that time was a social event so there were Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians there in addition to the Lutherans, a meeting so large that it was held in the courthouse. The renowned minister chose baptism from the text in Matthew 28: 19 and 20 as his theme. Aiming first at the Baptists he stated that in all the scripture he had ever read he had come across only three instances of immersion: the Antediluvians, Pharaoh and his army, and the swine of Gadarenes. The Presbyterians and Methodists smiled, but not for long. To the Presbyterians he said, "Your doctrine of predestination shuts you out from the true Christian hope in baptism. The sacrament brings no grace to you if your doctrine of predestination be true. If you be among the saved, you bring the grace to the sacrament." Finally to the Methodists he bluntly went on, "You sometimes baptize your children and sometimes you don't. You let them grow up like colts, and then break them if you can. Then, if you forgot to baptize them, you call a meeting to initiate members, sprinkle, affuse or immerse them as they may choose, and watch them for six months to see if they are Christians." Needless to say, after three long hours of such sermonizing the listeners were infuriated. The minister was persuaded that the back door was the shortest

Christian Church

and safest way out of the courthouse.

Churches of many kinds and of many faiths have sprung up from those early beginnings so that today there are in the vicinity of Ligonier twenty-two active congregations. Each has its own history of beginning, progress, and future plans.

The Christian Churches, Laughlintown and Waterford

On September 26, 1836, a small group of people formed the First Christian Church at Laughlintown and met for many years at the homes of their members, in the schoolhouse, and in an old log church. Work was begun on the construction of a permanent meeting place on November 24, 1883, and was dedicated in January of 1885 at a service led by the pastor, Peter Vogle. In 1921 a new church building was planned and the last services in the old church were held on May 14, 1922, when Mr. W. R. Corter was pastor. A new era began when the first services were held a week later in the new church. In 1935 a parsonage was completed by the men and women of the community themselves. On September 25, 1938, the 102nd anniversary of the church was commemorated at services with H. A. Denton and W. R. Corter as speakers.

The Christian Church in Waterford was organized November 16, 1900, at the home of Abram and Annie Beam in Boucher, now called Waterford. Moses A. Frye was elected elder, secretary and clerk; William Weimer and Albert Salyards were elected deacons; J. Wood Weimer was named steward; William Knupp, who is still living, was elected treasurer. The present church was completed June 14, 1903, by W. R. Corter who later moved from Greensburg to minister to the churches in Laughlintown and Waterford. In June 1953 the building was remodeled and rededicated as part of the fiftieth anniversary celebrations with John Mostoller and Rufus Peer, the present minister, officiating.

The Church of the Brethren

The area originally embraced by the Church of the Brethren was a wide triangular section of Westmoreland County bordering on Somerset, Cambria, and Indiana Counties and extending from Waterford to Cokeville to include New Florence, Wild-Cat, Bolivar, and the Garfield areas. Around Waterford first were members who moved across Laurel Hill from Quemahoning Church and they were served for a number of years by ministers from that church in services held in homes and schools. Dr. Samuel G. Miller, elected in 1877, was the first minister from their own membership.

The Waterford congregation began construction of a meeting house in 1888 under the leadership of George W. Hanawalt, the first elder of the church. Eighty-five members had been received into the church by confession of faith and by letter of transfer by 1913. Pastors since 1902

Church of the Brethren

St. Michael's of the Valley

were the Reverend W. E. Wolford, the Reverend Robert G. Mock, and the Reverend Glenn Heckman. At present the church is served by call ministers while they seek the services of a full-time minister.

The Episcopal Church

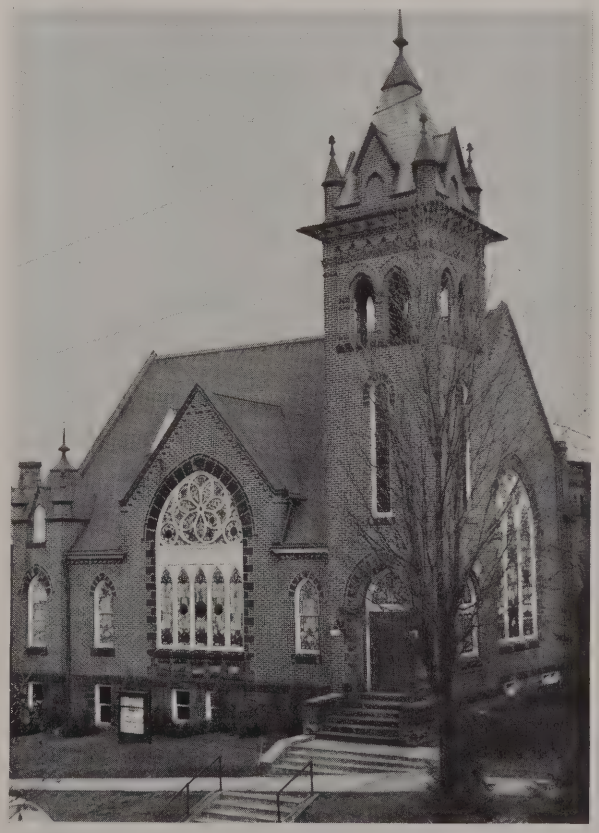
A new colony and an ancient church came to America together with the founding of the Jamestown Settlement in Virginia in 1607. Following the establishment of the church in the capital at Williamsburg, the Anglican Communion spread with the British colonists throughout the land. Many of our Founding Fathers were present at the first General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Philadelphia in October 1789.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh was organized in 1865 and it was under the leadership of its fourth bishop, the Right Reverend Austin Pardue, that plans were made in 1947 for a regular ministry to Episcopalians within a radius of almost twenty miles from Ligonier. The mission in the Rector School was under the leadership of lay readers and a seminarian and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Righter. In June 1949 the Reverend Charles P. Price became vicar of the mission now called St. Michael's of the Valley. On land donated by Mrs. A. W. Thompson, construction of the classical Greek Revival structure designed by Mr. Robert Schmertz was undertaken. The congregation became a parish in 1952 and the building was dedicated in September 1953. In August 1954 the Reverend Trevor Hoy, who had been Episcopal Minister to students at Ohio State University, succeeded Mr. Price who resigned to complete his studies for his doctorate at the Union Theological Seminary. Since 1954 the Rector School has been acquired and redecorated as a parish house and the rectory in Ligonier was purchased in 1955. Today the congregation numbers 475 baptized members, including 210 communicants.

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

The number of early German-speaking settlers, including Dutch and French Hugenots, was such as to attract the attention of the Reverend John M. Steck, a Lutheran minister. Their first log church was built in the Brandt Settlement by Lutherans and Reformed sometime between 1818 and 1822, although services had been held as early as 1790. In 1851 an English Constitution was adopted and the congregation assumed for the first time the name

St. James Evangelical Lutheran



it now bears. The original church, built on the site of the present one, was dedicated November 12, 1851, and services in Brandt's were discontinued. Thirty-one years later a parsonage was constructed on ground adjoining the church. On August 22, 1883, the congregation was united with the Pittsburgh Synod. In 1898 under Pastor A. H. Bartholomew, the cornerstone of the present Church Sanctuary was laid; the new building was on the site of the old one and utilized part of the original walls. During the pastorate of the Rev. H. Wahl Pfeifer a fund was established for a new parsonage and in July of 1957, during the present pastorate of the Rev. A. Jordan, the old parsonage was removed. The new parsonage was dedicated in June 1958.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Darlington, Pennsylvania, has been served by the pastors of the St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church since its beginning. The cornerstone was laid June 17, 1888, and the church was dedicated May 12, 1889.

The Evangelical United Brethren Church

The First Evangelical United Brethren Church of Ligonier was a part of the missionary outreach of the Evangelical Church which merged with the United Brethren Church of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in 1946. The Evangelical work dates from a camp meeting in Fayette County in 1822. Among the first meeting places was the home of Jacob Deeds, near the present Zion Church. From its beginning until 1832 the work in this valley was on the Somerset Circuit which included the classes in Somerset, Fayette, and Westmoreland Counties. From 1832 the Indiana Circuit, including the counties of Westmoreland, Indiana, Armstrong, Jefferson, Clearfield, Clarion, and Venango, served Ligonier Valley until 1850, when Westmoreland and Fayette were made a separate circuit.

The earliest preaching services held in Ligonier were at the Mud-hole Schoolhouse. By 1856 the present Rector congregation had its beginning in the meetings at the home of Henry Matthews. The Lebanon congregation began in 1863. In 1878 the Westmoreland Circuit was divided and the Evangelical Churches of Ligonier Valley became a separate circuit.

Four years later the cornerstone was laid at a site on East Main Street. In 1924 a new church was dedicated, the present one, and in 1954 the older parsonage was replaced. Twenty-six ministers have preceded the present pastor, the Reverend Warren K. Alnor, of a congregation which has grown from a charter membership of nine to the present 324. Reverend Alnor's charge includes the four churches, Ligonier, Rector, Zion, and Lebanon.

St. John the Baptist Greek Catholic Church

In 1919 the Carpatho-Russian people of Wilpen and surrounding area organized to build a church of their language and faith. Work was begun that year and, except for interior decorations, was completed by the following year. The ensuing five-year period was a difficult one but in 1926 the interior decorations were added. In 1929 a chapel adjacent to the church was erected. From 1954 to 1956 the church was rewired, new lighting fixtures were installed, and the interior was completely renovated.

Mass at St. John's is in the Slovak language for the congregation of about 100 members. The church, which follows the Julian calendar, is in

Evangelical-United Brethren

St. John the Baptist Greek Catholic Church

the diocese of the Most Reverend Orestes P. Chornock, the bishop of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Diocese.

Pastors of the church have been the Reverends John Soroka, Michael Sopoliga, Peter Halkovich, Andrew Sabak, John Kossey, and the present pastor, the Very Reverend Doctor Andrew Pankov, who came to Wilpen in December 1957.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church of Hillsview

On August 30, 1933, at the home of Bennett Clark, the Hillsview Christian and Missionary Alliance Church was organized under the leadership of the Reverend Philip Darling, pastor of the Greensburg church. Services were conducted in the Hillsview school until the permanent facilities were made available September 24, 1950. The pastors who have served the church are Miss Sarah Umhey, the Reverend William D. Roley, Miss Evelyn Cantrell, Miss Minerva Farringer, and the present pastor, the Reverend Charles B. Pitroff.

Ligonier Methodist Church

The Methodist Church

The Ligonier Methodist Church was established in 1788 in the "name, style and title" authorized by a letter from John Wesley, dated September 10, 1784, and postmarked Bristol, England. This organization was a part of the Redstone District which comprised all of Western Pennsylvania from Virginia and Maryland to New York. Jacob Surton (Seaton) and Lashley Matthews were the first pastors on the circuit, the second in the United States.

The first services were at the home of Jacob Shaw. In 1790 the meeting place was changed to the home of Robert M. Roberts whose son became one of the first Methodist bishops. In 1811 it was moved to the home of Cornelius Riley whose son and grandson became Methodist ministers. A frame church building was erected in 1829 on the southwest corner of the old cemetery at Church and St. Clair Streets. A larger brick edifice was built on the present site in 1857, with the parsonage beside it, on the corner of Main and Market Streets. In 1903 the brick building was replaced by the present church. The bluestone was furnished by the Byers and the Dennys, and the building was dedicated free of debt.

More than ninety ministers have preceded the present minister, John D. Van Horn, D.D. This year marks the beginning of a financial crusade to build a new educational unit and a new parsonage and to modernize the chancel.

Methodism in Stahlstown is represented by the former Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in 1831, and the Calvary Methodist Protestant Church, established in 1832. Since the uniting session of Methodism held in 1939 these churches have been served by pastors appointed by the Pittsburgh Annual Conference. The present pastor, the Reverend Harold E. Greenway, will be the first minister to occupy the new parsonage. On May 18, 1958, the two congregations at Stahlstown voted to unite and to elect an official board with equal number from each church.

The Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church of Ligonier began its distinct work as a congregation in the year 1817 with the Reverend George Hill as pastor, although preaching services were held in the community as early as 1798. In the first years the church was part of an extended field including the churches of Donegal (Pleasant Grove) and Fairfield. This relation existed until 1841, from which time Ligonier and Donegal constituted a charge, and even this was divided in 1882. In the more than 140 years of its life the Presbyterian Church has had 15 pastors: the Reverends George Hill, Samuel Swan, Albert B. Clark, David Harbison, John A. Brown, Ross Stevenson, Edward McKelvey, John N. McCoy, R. Leard Smith, Christian E. Ludwig, William F. Fleming, Harry Cost, D. Alan Martens, Walter Reed, and George H. Wright.

The first services were held at times in a large tent placed near the location of the present building. The first church building, a small rectangular brick structure, must have been erected about 1820. Soon too small for the growing needs of the congregation, it was replaced in 1847 by a similar, but larger, rectangular building. After 55 years it was torn down and the cornerstone of the present building was laid. In the cornerstone was deposited a sealed copper box containing a list of pastors, official boards and members, copy of the Confession of Faith, Presbyterian Banner, a Ligonier Echo, and a few other papers. In 1904 this buliding, a handsome structure of light gray sandstone from the McCance quarries, was completed by local labor and was dedicated. The art windows were all donated, some by Sunday School classes and some by individuals as memorials.

In order to provide adequate facilities for the education of the youth the first unit of a Christian Education building was erected beside the church, and on March 9, 1958, it was dedicated.

On May 28, 1958, the Presbyterian and the United Presbyterian Churches merged to form the United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

The Presbyterian Church, Fort Palmer

The founders of the Fort Palmer Presbyterian Church, originally called the Fairfield Church, first met about 1780. A tent was the earliest place of worship, later a log house. On October 7, 1786, they obtained a supply from the Blairsville Presbytery. The log house gave way to a brick structure in 1867 and to a still larger brick building in 1892. That church remained until January 4, 1953, when fire destroyed the entire building. Seven months later ground was broken for a new church which was dedicated in 1955. The present pastor of the Fort Palmer Church is the Reverend Edward J. Newbaker III.

The Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Grove

The Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, originally called Old Donegal Church, was founded in the year 1780. The church, built of old hand-cut stone, is surrounded by a grove of stately pine, oak, and maple trees. Robert Campbell, an elder for sixty-five years, was one of the pioneers who helped build the present church in 1832, the third church on the same site. The pastor is the Reverend Edward J. Newbaker III.

The Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church

The earliest history of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Ligonier indicates that priests from York, Pennsylvania, celebrated Mass in the homes of Catholic families. After the St. Vincent Archabbey was established in 1846 Father Boniface Wimmer and his fellow Benedictines settled at Sportsman's Hall. In 1854 the growth of the congregation resulted in the building of the red-brick church. In 1908 Father Felix Fellner, O.S.B., wrote that the 53-year old "Church was enhanced in 1907 by the stained

Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church

glass windows...and in the near future the modest Church...will receive an appropriate addition." This addition was a bell tower, sanctuary, and sacristy. In 1942 a parochial school was established and the completion of a Rectory in 1943 by Father Cyril Vlossák, O.S.B., enabled him to be the first resident pastor. On April 4, 1957, a convent was opened for the Sisters of Mercy.

From a beginning, when Mass was offered once a month or less, to the present with six Masses every Sunday, the congregation has grown beyond the bounds of the small brick church. Father Leander's efforts toward a new church were culminated by his sudden death. He was succeeded in 1955 by Father Alfred Grotzinger, O.S.B., who organized the purchase of the former Ligonier Valley Rail Road engine house with 6¼ acres of land on March 21, 1957. The conversion of the building into a church, social hall, and school began immediately and on May 25, 1958, Mass was celebrated there for the first time. The social hall during the summer solves the problem of a vacationist-enlarged congregation, and for the rest of the year serves as gymnasium, cafeteria, and social center.

St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church

St. Ann's Church in Wilpen is a mission from Ligonier. Built in 1913, with recent additions of an oil-fired furnace and a parking lot, the church continues to serve the needs of that congregation.

St. John's United Church of Christ, Darlington, Pa.

The congregation of St. John's Church was organized through the efforts of the Reverend C. M. Hartzell, pastor of Christ's Church in Latrobe. The cornerstone was laid on May 20, 1888, and the church was dedicated on August 10. Pastors who have served the church since then are: W. A. McClellan, J. F. Blair, J. W. Albertson, J. C. Knable, J. C. Barrows, I. S. Hahn, W. H. Landis, A. E. Master, and the present pastor, L. L. Ringer. At present the congregation is adding improvements, which include a heating plant and a new entrance, to the church. Since the founding of St. John's Reformed Church, the denomination has shared in a merger with the Evangelical Synod of North

United Presbyterian Church

America in 1934 and in a union with the Congregational Christian Churches in 1957. It is now known as St. John's United Church of Christ—Evangelical and Reformed.

The United Presbyterian Church

Over a century of preparation antedates the organization of the Ligonier United Presbyterian Church because its development, its session, its pastors, and its people were furnished by the pastoral charge of the Fairfield and Fairmont Churches. Although the church building was begun in 1876, the actual organization of the congregation was not until February 9, 1901. As early as 1762, upon the organization of the Associate or Seceder Presbytery, the Donegal congregation sent requests to the assembly stating that they "craved" sermons. In 1774 the Reverend Mr. Smith was chosen first minister to serve the Donegal and Fairfield circuit.

On November 14, 1775, Robert Hamill personally represented the Fairfield congregation at Presbytery "craving supplies, ordination of elders, baptism, and the Lord's Supper," but not until 1803 when John Cree, a native of Scotland, came and preached in barns, private homes, and under trees was there a settled pastor. After Mr. Cree's death, Dr. Joseph Scroggs preached for over fifty-seven years. In Fairfield, the first church was erected in 1807 and in Donegal, about 1804. Fairfield's second building was in 1849; Donegal's second was in 1867.

The United Presbyterian work in Ligonier began in 1886 with the Reverend W. H. Vincent, who built the residence on North Market Street. For him, Vincent Street was named. To augment his income, he and his wife asked permis-

sion to conduct classes in classical academic studies in the vestibule of the church. Permission was granted and their work began with two men students. Classes existed only for a short time but nevertheless they were one of the cultural contributions to the community. Thirteen ministers preceded the Reverend James C. Stormont, who after fourteen and a half years in Ligonier, resigned June 1, 1958.

On May 28, 1958, the United Presbyterian and the Presbyterian Churches merged to form the United Presbyterian Churches in the U. S. A.

Church in the Wilderness

The Church in the Wilderness

About ten miles north of Ligonier and one mile south of Ross Mountain Park is the lovely Church in the Wilderness. A replica of the tomb of Rachel in the Holy Land, the church was dedicated in 1925 by the late James Ross Mellon to the memory of his wife, Rachel Larimer Mellon. Both Protestant and Catholic services have been held in the church each summer since its dedication. Also, the church is open from time to time for weddings, musical programs, and community programs.

The Little White Church

The Little White Church is the building on the corner of Bunger and Walnut Streets in Ligonier. Originally the Christ Reformed Church in Youngstown, Pennsylvania, the church was dismantled and moved to its present location. It was dedicated October 7, 1934, by the Reverend Merle Weimer, who served the church for about two years. Since that time services have been conducted by several ministers and their assemblies. In March 1953 a non-denominational church assembly, with Mrs. Ruth Gess as pastor, purchased the building from the late Ephraim Alexander.

Establishment of Schools

Hand in hand with the growth of these religious institutions went the establishment of schools. In this field too, the Germans led the way; almost all were literate. Pastorious, the well-known educator who did so much to raise the standards of education in Pennsylvania, was one of them. They printed the first schoolbooks and Bibles in America. Before long the Scotch-Irish schools outnumbered those of the Germans, but that was most likely due to the greater proportion of Scotch-Irish in the population of that time. The first schools were church and private and it wasn't until 1849 that education was made compulsory in this state, with schools free to the public after 1873.

Much of the early history of Ligonier must be gleaned from the stories that have been passed mouth to mouth from generation to generation, and the story of the earliest offerings in public education is no exception to the rule. Inaccuracy and insufficiency are the certain products of any unrecorded history. According to reminiscences of "old timers," both present and past, the first public school established within the boundaries of Ligonier Borough was located on Church Street somewhere between the lots occupied at present by the Evangelical-United Brethren Church and the Presbyterian Church. Folks, who were but little children in 1865, remember the decaying brick walls of this first schoolhouse. It may be assumed that since Colonel John Ramsay first divided this area into lots for sale in 1817, and that the site now occupied by the elementary school was designated as a place on which a public school building would be erected, then there must have already existed a school building prior to that date, and on the Church Street location.

Red Brick Schoolhouse of Days Gone By

Ligonier Borough Elementary School

The Senior High School

Elementary School Built on Present Site

The second public school was constructed during the early sixties on the site of the present elementary building, this being the tract of land donated by Ramsay. This building of red brick consisted originally of two rooms but the school population grew so rapidly that it was soon necessary to add four classrooms to the original, and even these accommodations became inadequate by the end of the century. The present yellow brick elementary school went up in 1903. It is interesting to note, in comparison to present day building costs, the amount expended to complete in full the grade school as it now stands. According to the auditor's statement of June 6, 1904, the total expenditures for ten classrooms, an auditorium, and several storage rooms, together with heating, plumbing, and lighting, was $34,887.93.

Senior High School

In the year 1932 the first section of the present Senior High School was completed for occupancy. This provided six classrooms and an auditorium at a cost of $70,700.00. In 1936 a gymnasium with locker rooms and showers and eight more classrooms were added at a total cost of $65,800.00.

Elementary instruction marked the entire effort in Ligonier until the middle eighties when some work of a secondary nature was incorporated into the curriculum. The first class to be graduated from the high school was in 1887.

A Four-Year Institution

The history of public education in Pennsylvania shows that for a long period of years great consideration was shown for the primary skills, with emphasis placed upon reading, writing, and arithmetic. Ligonier did not differ from other localities in this respect, so it was not until the middle of the century that more advanced courses were added. An occasional year of schooling was added to the curriculum as time moved along, but it was not until the spring of 1918 that Ligonier High School became established as a four-year institution with full approval by the Department of Public Instruction. As was true of almost all the early secondary schools, the program in Ligonier was classical in nature, and remained so until the early thirties when opportunities were given for training in more practical fields. Ligonier retained its classification as a four-year high school, but training was provided in the fields of home-making, agriculture, music, art, and business, while it continued to

Ligonier Township Elementary-Junior High School

supply the foundation for those who might be concerned with preparation for advanced training in scientific and classical fields.

New School on the Hill

In 1953 another step forward came with the banishment of the one-room schools and the construction of a modern elementary and junior high school for the township on a hill over-looking the town of Ligonier. In addition, the three areas of Ligonier Borough, Ligonier Township and Cook Township formed a jointure which operates on a 6-3-3 plan to replace the 8-4 system. At present, there is a student enrollment of 1750 in the entire jointure with 73 faculty members, including the four administrators. Ever-increasing population indicates that there will soon be further expansion in the educational system of Ligonier Valley.

Parochial and Private School

The parochial school of the Holy Trinity Church too has expanded and will soon be moved to new classrooms in the reconverted "roundhouse" of the Ligonier Valley Rail Road. Above Rector on Lynn Run Road is the private Valley School of Ligonier, established in 1946 in buildings and grounds which were formerly the home of the Carnegie family.

Bethlen Home

In spite of its scenic beauty and the important role it played in opening up the west two centuries ago, Ligonier may not be too widely known by the millions of other Americans, except by those of Hungarian origin. Ligonier, to the American of Magyar and Reformed Christion background, is synonymous with practical Christianity turned into bread and butter, shelter, medicine, brotherly care, and love. Moreover, the name of Ligonier is becoming known among the many thousands of Hungarian Reformed Christians scattered over the North and South American continents, in Austrialia, New Zealand, South Africa, and in Europe on this side of the Iron Curtain, as their religious and cultural center.

The widespread fame of Ligonier among Hungarian Protestant Christians is attributed to the Bethlen Home, a charitable home for orphans, dependent children, and old people. It was founded in 1921 jointly by the Hungarian Reformed Federation of America and the several Hungarian Reformed congregations in the country.

The Bethlen Home has taken care of approximately 1500 children and 800 older men and women since its founding. The children's home is in the Borough of Ligonier, while the home for the older folks is in the township on a 200-acre farm.

Bethlen Home received its name from Gabriel Bethlen, a former Prince of Transylvania, an orphan, a great Calvinist Christian, and faithful and successful ally of Gustavus Adolphus in the Thirty Years War. Bethlen Home fosters an unadulterated Evangelical Christianity and love of freedom.

The Bethlen Home

Ligonier Valley Library

The Public Library

Ligonier's Public Library on East Main Street has been the result of insight and public spiritedness of the valley citizens. In 1945 a small, determined group of women with a few hundred donated books formed the nucleus of the present library. Time, labor, material, and a small room free of rent for three months were donated by other interested men and women. Volunteer labor has been characteristic of the library ever since the beginning. The small library grew rapidly in popularity so that within a few years a Library Board was organized and the building which it now occupies was purchased. In December of 1957 the mortgage was burned and funds can now be used to increase the facilities of the library and its services, free to Ligonier Valley residents.

McGinnis Hospital

On February 28, 1948, the McGinnis Private Hospital was opened by the present owner, Mrs. Helen Newlin McGinnis. Approved by the American Hospital Association, the McGinnis Hospital has a 17-bed, 6-bassinet capacity with complete maternity, X-ray, laboratories, some surgery, and a blood bank. From the time of the opening to April 28, 1958, just a little over ten years, the McGinnis Hospital has had 4793 admissions.

The Ligonier Echo

For seventy years the newspaper of the valley has been The Ligonier Echo, established in September 1888. It changed hands several times before it was purchased in 1890 by I. M. Graham, who was succeeded in 1921 by his son, C. O. Graham. At his death in 1932 the paper went on to his daughter, Emma Graham, now Emma Graham Bracken. She and her husband, J. Albert Bracken, bought in 1936 both The Ligonier Echo and another local paper, The Ligonier American, which they incorporated into The Echo. For twenty-two years Mr. and Mrs. Bracken have owned and published the weekly newspaper, which makes a total of sixty-eight years that some member of the I. M. Graham family has been printing the news of Ligonier Valley.

McGinnis Private Hospital

National Armory

In the lower end of the town on the corner of West Main and Walnut Streets is the National Armory, built by the State Armory Board, aided by Federal funds, in 1938. In the beginning, Ligonier was the Headquartrs for the 109th Ambulance Unit of the 103rd Medical Regiment of the 28th Division of the Pennsylvania National Guard, which was organized June 21, 1927, in the Fort Ligonier Hotel. The late J. B. Johnson was the first commanding officer and his lieutenant was Lt. C. H. Pershing. They had 45 enlisted men, who drilled in the IOF building and kept their horses in Nicely's Livery Barn. They were called to active duty February 17, 1941, and left for Indiantown Gap the following week.

On October 29, 1946, they were reorganized into Headquarters and Headquarter Company, the 2nd Battalion, of the 110th Infantry of the 28th Division. In September 1950 they left for Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and under Captain Engle were sent to Germany during 1951 and 1952.

Again in August 1953 they were reorganized under Lt. George E. Beck, now Captain Beck, their present commanding officer. They were the first Company to reach full capacity in 1955 with 86 enlisted men and eight officers. Also Ligonier is the headquarters for the entire 2nd Battalion under Lt. Lawrence R. Stewart, Jr., of Washington, Pennsylvania.

Headquarters Company of the 2nd Battalion

The National Armory

Volunteer Co. Equipment

Three eldest members:

Edward Ballard
Edward B. Shaffer
Charles Laughrey

Ligonier Volunteer Hose Company No. 1

Fort Ligonier Marker and Entrance

Fort Ligonier Revived

For a century and a quarter Fort Ligonier was but a memory. The once extensive area it embraced gradually gave way to the pattern of streets lined with houses. On October 29, 1927, John Jacob Hughes of Latrobe bought a weed-covered lot on East Loyalhanna Street on which the heart of the old fort was located and presented the deed to the William Kenly Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Latrobe. Since then a chapter of the DAR has been organized in Ligonier. In 1931 the Latrobe Chapter obtained an adjoining lot and three years later set up a monument.

The idea of a restored Fort Ligonier had long interested Ligonier residents but it wasn't until 1946, when a Chamber of Commerce was organized, that the restoration of the fort became a chief project. Mr. C. K. Macdonald, the first Chamber of Commerce president, was from the beginning a key figure in the project.

In November 1946 a non-profit corporation, Fort Ligonier Memorial Foundation, Inc., was chartered and two years later received from the William Kenly Chapter the deed for the two lots on which the restoration was begun.

Relics and Artifacts

Preliminary background information and data were obtained from Eugene M. Gardner, an

Artifacts from Scene of Fort Restoration

Model of the Original Fort

archeologist. Other technical data has been supplied by Charles M. and Edward Stotz, architect and engineer, respectively, engaged in restoring historical structures. From excavations at the site were recovered over 400 relics and artifacts. Among these were musket balls, rifle balls, old bullet molds, powder keg hoops, gun flints, cannon balls, bayonets, gun triggers, ramrod guides, knives, arrow heads, military uniform buttons, cuff links, metal pins, glass beads, stirrups, spurs, horseshoes, horse and wagon chains, early hardware, cowbells, spoons, hatchets, wedges, hand-forged nails and spikes, jews' harps, and clay pipes.

Raising of Funds

Satisfied by the relics and reports of Mr. Charles Stotz, who had found concise information about the fort from old records in England, the Foundation launched a campaign for public contributions. In this drive $45,000.00 was raised. To this, General and Mrs. R. K. Mellon added $20,000.00. Logs were sold at $10.00 each and Founder's certificates were issued to each purchaser, who also had his named placed in the Fort Ligonier Roll Book. Support of the reconstruction was nationwide, but no Federal or State financial aid was obtained.

Stockade and Officers' Headquarters

The ground breaking took place at the site in October 1952. Completed in this first phase of the reconstruction was over 400 feet of heavy-pillared stockade wall. Pickets fourteen feet long were sunk side by side to a depth of three and one-half feet with gun emplacements built inside the stockade. Inside the stockade is the

Seeking a Secret Passage

Stockade at the Fort

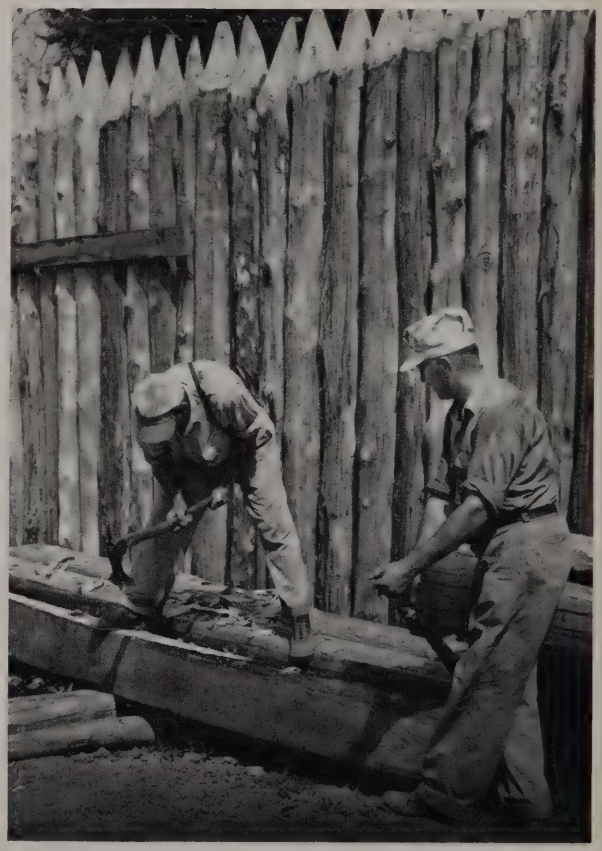
officers' headquarters, a massive timbered structure which is 27 feet long by 15 feet wide. Native hardwood logs, 12 inches square with dovetailed joinings and wooden peg fastenings, make up the bulk of its sturdy construction. The building rests on stone piers and has a floor of heavy planks. Old style cut nails are used in part of the building and the hardware necessary for the one door and shutters is of wrought iron, much of which was recovered on the site itself. The windows are of old glass used in the eighteenth century and on the roof are shingles hand-hewn on the site.

Eighteenth century methods of construction were used throughout so that it took three and a half months to accomplish what could be done in a week now. Cross-cut saws, adzes, broad-axes, frows, drawing knives, and shaving horses were put to use again.

Log Cabin and Blacksmith Shop Added

Since 1954 there has been added an original blacksmith shop, formerly operated by John McDowell, and a small log cabin which in 1760 had been built along Forbes Road on Two-Mile

Fort Construction



Run by Abel Fisher. It was given to the Fort Ligonier Memorial Foundation by the Albert Jones family. Moved to the grounds of the fort, the log cabin now houses the equipment of a gunsmith shop owned and operated by Joseph and John Fry, pioneer blacksmiths of Ligonier Valley over 125 years ago.

Over the restored fort flies the authentic flag of 1758 known as the King's Colors. It bears the Cross of St. George of England and the Cross of St. Andrew of Scotland. Later was added the Cross of St. Patrick of Ireland. Once more it flies over the fort by permission of American and British authorities.

Frequent donations of relics are made to the Foundation so that as time goes on the restoration of the fort is enriched, not only in the reconstruction but also in actual memorials "to this vanguard of the greatest migration in modern times, a movement of people who carried the white man's civilization into the rich inland basin."

In this bicentennial year, to look backwards with freedom of imagination is to see the progress of its people on the stepping-stones stained with blood, with hearbreak, tears, and loneliness, on fields tilled with backbreaking toil, on faith that defied all the arduous trials of pioneer life, with their hands to the plow and their eyes on the stars. Had they taken the time to philosophize they might have come up with a quotation to symbolize their aim. Let us do it so that two hundred years from now, when another bicentennial history is written, our names may be there if we borrow the words of the philosopher:

When the pyramid is builded may
my grain of sand be on the pile.

Making Shingles 18th Century Style

Municipal Building
Borough of Ligonier

Burgess
FRANK D. KRICHBAUM

1958—BOROUGH OFFICERS—1959

Burgess—FRANK D. KRICHBAUM

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J. CLIFFORD NAUGLE
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Building Insp.—Robert M. Brant
Fire Chief—Guy W. Hauger
Tax Collector—Helen E. Hamill
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Herbert J. Martin
William A. Bradley

LIGONIER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

GEORGE H. MARKS
WILSON E. LEONARD, SR.
ANDREW PETERSON, SR.

JOSEPH GARDNER
Chief of Police

Ligonier Borough Council

l. to r.—Erdmann, Geeting, Wilt, Naugle, Hauger, Krichbaum, Guise, Hoover, Piper

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Walter Betz, *Vice-President*
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John E. Beck, *Senior High School Principal*
A. W. Peters, *Junior High School Principal*
Earl K. Burkholder, *Elementary Supervisor*

SANDI MILES
Queen of the Bicentennial

Bicentennial Queen Contestants
Front row—l. to r.—EUNICE ANN FISHER, PEGGY MONTICUE, KATHY WEST, CAROLYN JONES, MARY GLESSNER, ANNA MAE RIFFLE, LOIS BARLOCK
Second row—l. to r.—ESTHER MCMAHON, JEAN GROSS, SYLVIA BAUM, JOAN CUNLIFFE, SANDY KENNEY, MARY RUTH HOOVER, SANDI MILES CONNIE GRAHAM, BEVERLY FELGAR, MARSHA MUSICK, JACQUE WITHROW, ANN BARBARAS, RUTH MAY ISCRUPE

Organizations in Ligonier Valley

with date of organization

Ligonier Rotary Club—July 11, 1939
Ligonier Lodge, F. & A. M. No. 331—March 7, 1859
Women's Temperance Union—1886
Ligonier Lodge No. 964, I. O. O. F.—April 1, 1879
Lady St. Clair Rebekah Society—April 20, 1906
Holy Trinity Rosary Society—February 1916
Lions Club—July 12, 1940
American Legion, Byers-Tosh Post No. 267—January 19, 1927
American Legion Auxiliary, Byers-Tosh Unit No. 267—February 1928
Order of Eastern Star of Fort Ligonier Chapter No. 349—May 11, 1921
Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce—February 1946
Ligonier Valley Council No. 465, Jr. O. U. A. M.—June 1933
Woman's Club—1928
Jr. Woman's Club—1937
Fort Ligonier Post No. 734, V.F.W.—1921
Military Order of the Cooties, Pup Tent No. 60 Delia—April 1957
Samson Cootiette Club—1957
V.F.W. Auxiliary—1922
Ligonier Volunteer Fire Company—1897
Ligonier Valley Grange No. 1411—1911
Fort Ligonier Aerie No. 2475, F.O.E.—December 1945
Ligonier Valley Joint School System Parent-Teachers Association—March 3, 1955
Ligonier Township Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 Auxiliary of Waterford—May 1938
Idle Park Volunteer Fire Company, Ligonier Twp. No. 3—July 1954
Wilpen Fire Company, Ligonier Twp. No. 2—1950
Ligonier Township Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 of Waterford—September 1937
Idle Park Volunteer Fire Co. Ligonier Twp. No. 3—July 1954
Ligonier Township Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 Auxiliary of Waterford—May 1938
Idle Park Volunteer Fire Co. Ligonier Twp. No. 3 Auxiliary—September 1954
Ligonier Valley Kiwanis Club—October 19, 1949
Mountain Boat Club—March 1956
Business and Professional Woman's Club—April 20, 1948
Laughlintown Community Center, Inc.—November 1, 1955
Laughlintown Community Club—February 1951
Rector Garden and Flower Club—August 1931
St. Alfred Court, Catholic Daughters of America—April 13, 1958
Ligonier Community Club—March 1941
Fort Ligonier Memorial Foundation, Inc.—November 6, 1946
Fort Ligonier Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution—December 28, 1957
Holy Trinity Parent Teachers Guild—1957
Ligonier Valley Garden Club—February 1957
Ligonier Valley Youth and Community Center—April 1955
Ligonier Valley Council No. 44, Daughters of America—September 7, 1948
Oak Grove Civic Club—April 17, 1953
Future Farmers of America, Ligonier Chapter—1936
Ligonier Country Club—1925
Ligonier Valley Joint Teachers Association—1954
Ligonier Valley Council No. 4474 Knights of Columbus—September 8, 1957
Laughlintown Protective Association—1938
Ligonier Valley Boosters Club—1949
Rolling Rock Hunt Club—1920
Ligonier Valley Ministerial Association—
Ligonier Township Sportsmen's Association, Inc.—1948
Stahlstown Lions Club—June 1953
Fort Ligonier Poetry Society—May 25, 1945
Ligonier Borough Civil Defense Council—June 17, 1942
Girl Scouts of America
Boy Scouts of America
Cub Scouts
Brownie Scouts

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